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WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

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## NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

### BRITISH GRUMBLING.

The reader may remember, that we have been somewhat puzzled to know what national trait was most strongly developed in the British character—whether, with Franklin, to denominate the English a nation of horse racers, or whether it may not be more befitting to set them down as a nation of beer drinkers, or a nation of smokers, or perchance a nation of hunters.

But here looms up another national characteristic; putting in a claim to pre-eminence, and we are strongly inclined to write them down a nation of *grumblers*. Grumbling is certainly a marked propensity of the Englishman; it seems to be as natural for him to grumble as to breathe, and we had almost said, as essential to his existence. And what is remarkable, the less reason he has for it, the more he will indulge in his favorite propensity. None are such inveterate grumblers as those that are the most prosperous. Not so the French. The Frenchman delights to let you into the secret of his success in life, and to turn over leaf after leaf in the volume of his history, that you may mingle your congratulations with his in view of the triumphs he has won.

And here we have but another exemplification of the two leading characteristics of which we have spoken as appertaining to the English and the French respectively, pride being the prevailing one with the English and vanity with the French. The latter lays a tax upon your wordy admiration—the former upon your silent homage. In the pride of his heart he affects to conceal from you what every body knows, that your imagination may give him credit for what he does not possess. Thus while he is gratifying his pride, he hopes at the same time, to get credit for a vast amount of humility. That is John Bull exactly, and we respectfully suggest, whether some trace of this kind of modesty may not be detected in the character of Brother Jonathan also,—we do not mean in the national aggregation in either case, for in that capacity both are as wordy as the French. In their national capacity, you know, it is perfectly proper for a people to boast of their country, as the greatest under heaven, while as individuals each one may consider himself as less than the least of all. In a national capacity their individuality is melted down and lost in the general mass, and is quite a dis-

interested affair in them, and in fact is but another phase of their modesty, thus to annihilate themselves in glorifying the whole. How it is, that a nation composed of individuals who are nothing in themselves, should be so much more intelligent, enterprising and powerful, than all other nations, is a secret which they keep to themselves. At the same time, they are not chargeable with the slightest inconsistency, so long as their national boasting comes up from the depths of individual annihilation. The idea that individual pride lurks beneath the mask is a slanderous one.

But we were talking about British grumbling, and have tried to trace it to its source, away down in the depths of the soul. There are collateral causes, however, peculiar to the institutions of the country, under whose influence the propensity for grumbling is quickened into rank development. These are native born in the Island, and are the *legitimate* offspring of the government itself. To explore their prolific sources, we must take a survey of the different classes into which the population is divided off. In so doing, we shall see that the organic structure of society is such as almost necessarily to make a nation of grumblers. The great central fact, that originally nearly all the land in the kingdom was parcelled out among a few favored ones, was the fruitful first cause. Let us see.

Take the farmers of the kingdom, not one in five hundred of whom tills a foot of land he can call his own, and they must be something more than mortal to be able to resist the temptation to grumbling. Take the most prosperous of them all, and just consider, that the more prosperous they are, the more likely their landlords will be to put on additional rent, and you are in possession of the entire secret. They must be stupid beings indeed, not to grumble when their interests and their hopes are so identified with the art. We were told of a farmer who actually succeeded, for a long time, in keeping from his landlord the knowledge of the fact that he had bought a piano for his daughter, and kept grumbling the whole time. And then again, you may take those who are not prosperous by means of being crushed beneath the burden of heavy rents, and and how can they be otherwise than grumblers?

Nor are the classes above them and below them, un-

der a scarcely less temptation to keep up a constant system of grumbling. Their landlords must of course, keep up a certain amount of style, and be able to give themselves up to a certain amount of prodigacy, and this is conceded to be all proper and right; but to do this they are often reduced to straits, and their only alternative is to fall back upon their tenants for additional rents, to reconcile them to which, a certain amount of grumbling is called into requisition. Others again grumble from mere surfeit.

And who will blame the poor famished laborer for grumbling from his cradle to his grave? Surely, if any man can be supposed to come into the world a natural born grumbler, it should be conceded to be him. Poor creature! To support his employer in independent ease, which he concedes to be indispensable, he must himself toil for wages but little above starvation points. Indeed the burden of supporting the orders above them in idleness and ease, rests entirely upon the shoulders of the laboring classes, while scarcely enough of their own hard earnings is allowed them to satisfy the cravings of hunger, or to cover their nakedness. That they, to a man, should be grumbler then, who can wonder?

If we pass to the great army of servants and waiters, we shall find them in circumstances equally calculated to mould them into a grumbling mood. At all public houses, the servants depend entirely on what is thrown them as a gratuity by customers, which they pick thankfully up, no wages being allowed them. It is thus made for their interest to put on a beseeching look, and to grumble stoutly. The case of other classes of servants, is if possible, still worse. And besides, they would naturally learn the art from the superiors whom they serve.

Thus is the spirit of grumbling nursed into being, and thus does it run down through every gradation of society, to the very beggars in the street.

The remark has often been made, that the English among us manifest a less reconcilable spirit towards our institutions, than any other class of our foreign citizens. This is far from being true of them all, and it is rather our private opinion, that none of them are so bad republicans as they make themselves appear, from the habit of grumbling which they brought with them to our shores. Do let them grumble, it does them so much good, to indulge in their cherished propensity, and we should quite as soon regard it as an evidence of their affection as of their disaffection to the country of their adoption.

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#### NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

#### "SUCH THINGS ARE NOT DONE IN ENGLAND."

What things? Suppose we take an election scene, and start off upon a parallel. Why, we used to think our elections anything but what they should be, but after passing through an election scene in England, we are quite reconciled to the little improprieties, which characterize ours. *Little improprieties!* Yes, *little* they are in comparison with those which characterize an election in England.

An election comes off but once in seven years in England, and it so happened, that it transpired during the time we were there, and if the disgraceful scenes that attended it, had characterized an election in our own country, the death knell of the Republic would have been sounded throughout Europe.

And what does an election amount to, in that country after it has been achieved? The following facts will help mightily in the solution of this question.

In the first place, consider, that there are five millions of disfranchised citizens in the kingdom,—five million men who lie passively down under a grievance, which stirred the blood and nerved the arms of our revolutionary fathers, viz: taxation without representation, the tax on what they consume, in the shape of duties, being enormous.

Take the additional fact, that these five million men, although on a level with the cattle in respect to voting, yet actually carry through Parliament all the great reform bills that are passed. It was their cry for bread, and the stern attitude of demand they assumed, under the stirring appeals of Cobden and others, which carried the great measure of corn law repeal. And it is nothing but the fear of these political cyphers, which will move the great monied interest which has the control of both houses of Parliament, to take a step in the way of reform. Here then we have a set of men who are deemed unworthy of a political existence, and who have none by the constitution, actually governing the kingdom—that is, “by fits and starts,” or when they “take the notion.”

Take two other facts and put them together, first, that votes are given in *viva voce*, so that it may be readily known how every man votes; and secondly, that nearly all the voters are dependants upon some great one above them, and how manifest is it, that nearly all the votes in the kingdom are controlled by a few men.

In the first place, there is the whole race of tenant farmers, who are always expected to follow the lead of their landlords. In our country, we have an independent yeomanry, who are jealous of encroachment upon their rights, and who know how to defend them. But they have no such class in England. The farmer there is a mere appendage to his landlord, so far as his political existence is concerned. When the corn laws were repealed, instead of standing up like men, and demanding a corresponding reduction of rent, they joined with the landlord in the cry for re-instatement. We have often expostulated with them on the subject

endeavoring to show them how directly in the contrary direction their true interest lay, nothing being necessary to adjust the whole matter but a curtailment of extravagance on the part of their landlords. But it was like talking to the idle wind—it was all important, in their view, that their landlords should support the dignity of their position, and to this end they must keep up great establishments in town and country, and be able to spend the winter in one climate and the summer in another, and how could they do this, if their rents were cut down; and they would often say that their landlords were deeply in debt, and needed an increase of rent, and it was a hard case for them to submit to a reduction. We would sometimes point them to the myriads of poor creatures who were enjoying the luxury of the cheap loaf, and from whom it must again be snatched by the reinstatement of the corn laws, but it was vastly more important, in their view, that their landlords should have the means of rioting in extravagance. Many of them are so very obsequious, that they are content to remain mere tenants at will from year to year, through their whole lives. And thus the landlord is as sure of their votes, as the planter at the South is of the votes of "three fifths of all other persons."

And the great manufacturers of the kingdom equally control the votes of all their dependants who are entitled to the right of suffrage. The operative dare not vote contrary to the wishes of his employer, for he knows the loss of his place will be the forfeit.

And the great manufacturer himself is in his turn subject to greater ones above him. Take, for example, the great firm of Minturn & Co., of Stoke, the largest china ware manufacturers in the world. We met with a minor partner of that firm, upon the steamer in going from Antwerp to Rotterdam, upon the Scheldt, and the conversation turning upon politics, another English gentleman who stood by remarked to him, that he supposed Minturn must be a tory as the Duchess of Sutherland was a large patroness of his, to which he replied in the affirmative.

Thus it is, that one class bows tamely down to another, and all bow down together to the few who control the destinies of the nation, and no movement can be made towards reform, until the down trodden masses are aroused by the heart-stirring appeals of some master-spirit, to demand a redress of their wrongs in some particular, when something is generally done to pacify them, and they settle back into the same lethargy as before.

We will give an example or two, and drop the subject. What would be thought, said and done, if a candidate for Congress in this country, should mount the stump, in his electioneering tour, and as he looked down upon the thousands around him, should, upon hearing some expressions of disapprobation in the crowd, exclaim with emphatic scorn, "you are the vilest rabble I ever saw"—yet this was done by Major Beresford, a sprig of nobility, and "not a dog moved his tongue."

What sort of political civility would it be deemed in this country, if one of our most distinguished statesmen were to rise and deliver an electioneering

speech, as a candidate for Congress, and another distinguished political character standing in the crowd before him, should interrupt him by exclaiming with violence, "knock him down, knock him down, he shall not say such things here." But that was said to Sir J. Graham, one of the most distinguished political characters in England, and nothing was thought of it.

But time would fail us to enumerate the scenes of confusion and uproar, of bullying, violence and blood that disgrace the election scenes of a country which boasts of its free institutions as the model of our own to say nothing of the wholesale slaughter which took place in Ireland. If you ask our authority, we refer you to the London Times, in the columns of which you will find scenes narrated, in comparison with which the above wear the aspect of decency. And there too you will find long lists of charges of bribery and corruption against the highest dignitaries of the kingdom, (and what was wonderful to us) to the surprise of nobody.

This may seem a dark picture, but so far from having given the darkest shades, we have only played around the edges of the subject.

#### NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

#### "NO SUCH THINGS ARE DONE IN ENGLAND."

Some of our English friends who have found their way to our shores, it may be supposed still have a hankering for "the flesh pots of Egypt," as they look wistfully back, and they are sometimes heard to say in view of certain exceptionable things which meet their eyes, "No such things are done in England."—It may be, that no such things are done in England, but we will venture to say, that worse ones are. And here we beg our English friends to be assured that with all the disparaging things we have to say, we still entertain a deep affection for the mother country, and that we number among our personal friends, scores of Englishmen for whom we have a most profound regard. But we cannot be silent without turning traitor to humanity.

We have heard enough of that kind of twaddle.—*No such things are done in England!* What things? Take the worst you can think of, call up if you please, and set in array before us, the scenes of panic and distress occasioned by the wild cat bank explosions of '36. How many of you exclaimed in those days of terror, "No such things are done in England!"

Allow us to assure you, that far worse things have been done in England. *What, in the banking line?*—Yes, in the *banking line*, and we have the documents to show for it. Considerably on this side the beginning of the present century, a system of banking grew up in England, which, for legal folly, for the reckless frauds which it sanctioned, and for its tragical effects upon the community, never had a parallel in our country.

By the provisions of this system, the manufacturers and business men generally, were empowered to issue paper on their own responsibility, and to any amount which suited their purpose. The consequence was

that the manufacturers were in the habit of paying off the operatives in their employ in their own paper, and multitude of other business men availed themselves of the privilege of issuing large amounts. Thus matters went on swimmingly for a time, but about the year 1825, suddenly, a reaction came, and the immense amount of paper of this kind with which the country was flooded, sank down at once to fifty per cent below par, and in a little while to nothing at all, and then what a wail was heard thro' "Merrie England!" And what a tale is it to tell, that the poor laboring people who had toiled like slaves for a paltry pittance, found themselves robbed of that pittance by the very men who had pocketed the avails of their labor. What a tale is that to tell?

And do they have no Swartwouts in England?—Why there is a fellow now living in Bordeaux, almost in sight of England, who ran away while he was an officer of the government, with an immense amount of money, on which he is living at his ease, in a style of princely magnificence, and setting the British government at defiance.

And where in our country will you find a parallel to a case like the following? At the time the railroad mania prevailed in England, equaling, if not surpassing the wild extravagances of '36 in our country, there arose a man by the name of Hudson, who managed to get the controlling interest in all the principal railroads in the kingdom, and by way of distinction he was called "the railroad King." Immense wealth poured in upon him by the advances of stock upon his hands, and he walked right into the first society in England, and the biggest lords in the kingdom were to be seen hanging upon his arm. But by and by the secret of his success was discovered, and a system of fraud developed, such as never perhaps had a parallel in any country. Such had been the confidence reposed in him, that every thing was entrusted to his hands, and he conducted the affairs of all the companies he was connected with as he pleased, and nobody asked a question. The way he managed matters was to make false entries upon the books in reference to the stocks he wished to buy or sell, so as to give him the advantage of cheap purchases and high sales. In this way things went on for some time, and he had come to be regarded the wealthiest man in the kingdom, before the discovery was made. Some of his ill-gotten gain they compelled him to refund, but he retained the most of it, and he is now rolling in wealth, while many of his victims are reduced to penury. It is but justice to add, that he has sunk down from the high position he enjoyed in society, as the railroad king, to a much lower level, and is no longer seen arm in arm with the dignitaries of the kingdom.

And where in our country will you find a parallel to the following? A hundred or two years ago, (we forget the date) a wealthy merchant in London, who is said to have accumulated an immense fortune by dishonest means, in the last end, by way of compounding matters with his conscience, gave it all for the erection and endowment of a hospital or asylum, to which tradesmen who had been overwhelmed with calamity, might betake themselves in their distress.—That institution still stands, its buildings occupy a

large space in the very centre of the city, but shameful to tell, its immense funds are squandered upon officials, whose salaries exceed those of any officer of our government, except the President, while the unfortunate beings for whom it was intended, find its doors closed upon them, or opened only to give them a pittance which will afford no substantial relief.

In the city of London alone, there are funds left by deceased individuals for the education of the children of the poor, the bare interest upon which amounts to two million pounds sterling, or about ten millions of dollars annually, a sum sufficient to educate all the children in that great metropolis, and all that vast amount is squandered from year to year, upon certain favored ones, of high family connection, while the swarms of children for whom it was intended, are left to grow up in ignorance and vice, candidates for transportation to a convict shore.

In that same metropolis, we think we have before said, is an institution established and endowed by the sixth Edward, for the education of the children of the poor. In that institution are one thousand young men, all sons of the wealthy, who have their board, tuition and cloathing all found them from the funds of the institution, while its doors are closed upon every poor man's children.

If you ask our authority for these things, we refer you among others to Henry Rawson, Esq., as good authority as any man in England, with whom we became acquainted in London, both putting up at the same hotel, and whose hospitalities we subsequently enjoyed at Leeds, where he is a partner in the largest woolen manufacture in the kingdom.

We will only add, that such things are not done in our country, and far distant be the day that they can be said of us.

#### WHAT A MILLER CAN DO.

The following from E. H. Johnson, Esq., proprietor of one of the flouring mills in the beautiful and flourishing village of Albion, shows what influential persons thus circumstanced can do when they undertake. In a letter dated six weeks previous to the commencement of the next volume, he encloses us seven names with the money, and adds,

"I shall continue the effort for two reasons, first, I know well the worth of your paper, 2nd, for the Premiums offered. I find, amongst the most intelligent farmers it needs no argument to convince them of the worth of the Michigan Farmer. One of your subscribers (who I think is the best judge amongst my acquaintances) remarked, that the last volume of the Farmer containing your letters while in Europe, was worth five dollars to any one."

P. S. Eleven more names from the same source, with the money, making 18 in all, and friend J. says he thinks he can double the number.

SHEEP, NEW IMPORTATION.—E. Belknap, Esq., of New York, of whose extensive agricultural improvements in Jackson Co., we have heretofore spoken, has recently imported from one of the best flocks in England, 35 pure blood Cotswold sheep, at a cost of one hundred dollars each. In the flock are five lambs, which weighed, at eight months old, 750 lbs.

Mr. B. has not brought these sheep into our State for sale, or for purposes of speculation, but simply to stock his own farm with a sample of that celebrated breed.

## NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

SUCH THINGS ARE NOT DONE IN ENGLAND"  
—A PILL FOR BROTHER JONATHAN.

Such things are not done in England, and we are ashamed to say that they are done in our own country. What things—do you ask? We have never been disposed to palliate, or excuse our republican vices, or to interpose theegis of protection to screen our national or individual character from the opprobrium it merits.

But what mean vices are we guilty of, which does not disgrace the British character? Profane swearing is one, a vice which is the meaner, as it is perpetrated without the slightest temptation. And in giving the lights and shades of British character, we should do an injustice not to give it all the advantage in this particular, to which it is entitled, for we do not remember to have heard an oath during the whole time we were in England. So far from its being regarded as the mark of a gentleman there, to "rip out" a swaggering oath occasionally, it is looked upon as being decidedly inconsistent with that character, and is stigmatized as a low and vulgar habit. Instead of the term *gentleman*, however, we should perhaps, have said *persons of good breeding*, for the former term is only applied to persons of a certain amount of property, whereas here it is allowed to have its appropriate signification, being applicable to any well-behaved man.

And here we cannot but step a little aside to remark upon the power the "nobility and gentry" possess, in tainting the national character. They have but to turn upon a vice, and all the orders below them join them in hunting it from the land. And sorry are we to say, that these obsequious orders are, with few exceptions, quickly ready to join them in a crusade against any thing and every thing, good, bad and indifferent, which they see a notion to brand with their opprobrium, and pass sentence of condemnation upon. These high and conscientious ones, have but to fix an opprobrious name upon the object of their dislike, and it is echoed and re-echoed down through all the gradations of society, to the lowest abbe in the street. And they have the power, too, of converting the most harmless and unexceptionable names into terms of infamy, by an *accent* and a *nod*. The term *Chartist* was once a reputable one, and men of character were proud of the appellation. But how is it now?—With all classes of the people, it is a term of reproach, and you can hardly say a worse thing of a man, than to tell him a *Chartist*. The consequence is, that Chartist associations, instead of being distinguished, as formerly, for the good character of their members, have degenerated into mere bacchanalian clubs, and no man who reflects his reputation as worth anything, is found among them. And all this has been accomplished by a simple nod of the lip, from these lofty ones. And so it is in every thing. Public sentiment, throughout all its ramifications, is squared to meet their high approval. We might go on to present innumerable exemplifications of this degrading subserviency, and its calamitous results. Fearful, indeed, is the account which is thus standing over against those with whom the destinies of the nation are at a plaything.

Our English friends will pardon this digression. We had commenced lashing brother Jonathan in perfect good faith, but the opportunity was so good for giving John Bull "another lick," that we could not resist the temptation.

Humiliating as is the admission, it cannot be denied, that our countrymen are as distinguished for the low and vulgar vice of profane swearing, as the denizens of Britain are for the comparatively innocent one of grumbling. This degrading vice is so common with us, we have become so inured to the sound of vulgar oaths, that we almost cease to be affected by the monstrous impropriety, to say nothing of their corrupting influence. To have a due appreciation of the barbarous character of this vice, and its degrading influence, one has but to give his ears an eighteen months' repose from the din of oaths which is constantly falling upon them in this land of liberty, as we have done.

And of all the disgusting objects which we saw, during the whole time of our absence from the country, amid all the abominations of the old world, none presented a more nauseating spectacle, than the starched up American we here and there met with, in the attitude of delivering himelf of what he seemed to regard as the *Almighty oath*, and then looking round with an air of complacent dignity, as tho' he had thus settled his claims to the highest consideration in the old world, when in fact he was only regarded as having displayed the attributes of a vulgar fool.

And yet, if one may judge from appearances, there is a numerous class of persons all over our broad country, who seem to think that their standing as gentlemen (as they are pleased to call themselves) depends, in no mean degree, upon the dexterity and flippancy of their oaths, little dreaming, that in proportion as they indulge in them, they lose the solid respect, not only of those who are above them in character, but of those also who are upon their own low level.

And we trust this really ungentlemanly and groveling habit will be so branded by a public sentiment hereafter to arise, that it will "slink away" from among us.

But we must stop in the very midst of the subject.

EFFECTS OF DRAISAGE ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE SOIL.—All the rain that falls upon our fields must either be carried away by natural or artificial drainage, or, having thoroughly saturated the soil on which it falls, be left upon the surface to be carried off by evaporation. Now, every gallon of water thus carried off by evaporation requires as much heat as would raise five gallons from freezing to boiling point! Without going to extreme cases, the great effects of the heat lost upon vegetation cannot fail to be striking, and I have frequently found the soil of a field well drained higher in temperature from 10 to 15 degrees, than that of another field that had not been drained, though in every other respect the soils were similar. I have observed the effects of this upon the growing crop, and I have seen only one a much inferior crop on the undrained field, but that crop harvested fully three weeks after the other, and owing to this circumstance and the setting in of unsettled weather, I have seen that crop deteriorated fully ten per cent in value.—*E Simpson, in Journal Royal Ag. Society.*

## NOTES FROM ENGLAND.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE DRAINING PLOW, GREAT INVENTION,  
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

In one of our letters from England we mention a wonderful invention for laying tile at a suitable depth in the earth for draining purposes, without breaking the surface, by means of a mole plow, which drew the tiles in a string into the earth after it.

We afterwards received an invitation, in Yorkshire, to witness its operations, and were never more delighted than with the results. At one end of the field was a capstan with pulleys, over which passed a small wine rope, which, reaching to the other end of the field, was attached to a few frame work, being the superstructure or above-ground portion of the plow, the mole of which, (a round, pointed piece of iron, the size of the pipes) passed along four feet beneath in the earth, and thus a string of pipes the whole length of the field was drawn in after it, disappearing like a great snake burrowing itself in the earth.

Stand you now upon the line where the machine passed along, as it was being drawn up to the windlass, and wonderful to tell! you see nothing but slight traces of a slit in the earth, while four feet beneath you lies a string of tile, laid with as much exactness and regularity as tho' a bed had been prepared for them by the laborious operations of the spade. This has been proved by excavating the earth and laying them bare.

The capstan or stand for the windlass is easily and firmly fixed in the ground, and with the improvements which have since been made, does not require to be removed oftener than once a day, a team of two horses forming all the power which is necessary to work it.

At first, the tile were deposited in a line parallel with the surface, so that when the surface was undulating, the string of tile lay in corresponding undulations beneath, but by means of a screw and a ballanced level which have been added to it, the workman is enabled to raise or lower the snout which is roofing its way below, so as to keep it upon an exact level.

In clay lands, no tile are required, the drain opened by the mole remaining good without them. It is estimated that they will last in such soils thirty years without the protection of tile, the expense in that case being from a little more than one to two pounds per acre. More than 2000 acres were thus drained without tiles, by the patentees, in the month of March, April and May, upon different estates. The cost of draining the same wthr the spade, would have been from three and a half to five and a half pounds sterling, per acre. The smallest difference in the expense of the two modes of laying of tile, under any circumstances, is estimated at not less than one pound or five dollars per acre, and in most cases, it would be much more. In all, except clay soils, the tile are necessary.

Wonderful improvement! Only think, what an idea it is to contemplate, that strings of pipes have been laid in perfect order, twenty-five feet apart, four feet below the surface, all over a large field, and that without the lifting of a spade full of earth.

This would sound much like poetry and romance, to one who had not been let into the secret. But when explained and understood, it takes rank with the humble, plodding, utilitarian, and matter-of-fact movements of the age; and this machine will doubtless soon be introduced into our country, with many blessings in its train.

Nothing adds more to the value of lands with a clay subsoil, than draining, while draining and cultivation, would convert our comparatively useless marshes into the most productive and valuable land in the State.

But to say nothing of increased productiveness and lessened toil, the effect the draining of all such lands would have on health, would amply compensate all the expense.

And not only upon the health of human beings, but of dumb beasts. Exposed as our domestic animals are to the pestiferous effluvia, is it to be supposed, that they will escape injury from its influence, when man, who is so much less exposed, inhales fatal disease? In our humble opinion, most of the violent diseases which are so fatal to stock in new countries, such as murrain &c., originate in this cause.

We have not begun to estimate the advantages of draining. And only think how little would be the expense required to reclaim our wet lands compared with the outlay for similar improvements in England. Lincolnshire is considered the richest county in England, and what was it a century or two ago? A great portion of it was a perfect quagmire. The water was bailed out by windmills, and it is only kept out to this day by an immense number of windmills and steam engines in constant operation during the rainy season—otherwise their crops would be drowned out every year, and yet no part of the kingdom produces such crops.

We will now chronicle a small miscellany of improvements which fell under our observation in the old world, without much respect to order or classification.

*Improved Roller.*—We have spoken of an iron roller in two parts, the one half rolling back upon the axle, and the other half forward in turning about. But in the one we now refer to, instead of there being only two parts, there are a large number of wheels eight inches wide, strung upon an axle, in this respect, like Mr. Smith's, which we have described in another place, but it is peculiar in this, that the holes through the wheels are two or three inches larger in diameter than the axle, so that each wheel can settle or rise to suit an uneven surface, which must be a great advantage, all parts of the surface being equally pressed.

We are convinced, that our people have no suitable appreciation of the value of the roller as a farm implement. That great benefit accrues to crops from pressing down the surface of all lightish soils, is no longer to be doubted.

*Seeding to Clover.*—We have spoken of Garrett's horse hoe for cleaning out drilled wheat, and of the facility and nicely with which it is made to do its work. To this implement has been added an improvement, by which clover or other grass seed is scattered between the rows of wheat, the hoes following to cut up the soil and the weeds, and after them two light teeth, which mix the soil and the seed more perfectly, and complete the process.

*Patent Metal Mill.*—We have spoken of having visited the

& Co. at Ipswich, but neglected to say, that they are manufacturing steel mills for cutting and grinding all sorts of grain into fine meal, and requiring fifty per cent. less power to operate them than stone, their decided utility having been thoroughly established.

### PICKINGS BY THE WAY—NO. 3.

BY THE EDITOR.

Since our last we have made excursions as far North as Clarkston, and as far West as Niles, and it has been very grateful to our feelings to meet so cordial a greeting from our readers wherever we have been. Many of them seemed to regard us almost as one risen from the dead. We will certainly do our best to deserve the kind regards which are extended to us. It serves to lift us above despondency, and to cheer us onward in the prosecution of our arduous labors.

In these excursions we gathered some fragments, which may be of interest to the readers of the Farmer.

And first, we will again gather up some of our pickings, which were dropped by the printer, causing a mysterious vacancy in our last.

In our second No. of "Pickings," the head "Potatoe Culture" occurs, but nothing to answer the expectation of the reader follows, the needful paragraph having been left out by the printer.

It had reference to the method raising potatoes successfully practiced by Mr. Tyler, of Hillsdale, which is on this wise. Having plowed the ground, and furrowed it very shallow, he dropped the potatoes, and simply drew a good sized bush across the furrows, which covered them, when he coverspread them to the depth of six inches with straw. No cultivation was needed, he had a good crop, and so near the surface that it was comparatively little trouble to dig them.

*The Michigan Plow.*—At Birmingham we were very agreeably entertained by Aaron Smith, Esq., the author of the far-famed Michigan Subsoil, or double plow.—We know not when we have enjoyed a richer intellectual feast than in the conversation of "Uncle Aaron." He is a real philosopher, and as such deserves far better of mankind than many whose names are more widely known. He is now perfecting an invention which involves an entire new principle in the application of water power, or rather in the creation of it, the machine lifting the water from a dead level to almost any desirable height, and thus making it available for the propelling of machinery, and by a very simple operation. If he succeeds with it, as well as it now promises, it will be of great importance in all level countries.

But we were to speak of "Uncle Aaron's" plow. All our readers know about it as it originally appeared, two shared, one share following the other, and turning up the subsoil. But he has made an improvement in it which imparts to it an entire new value, and makes it complete. As originally constructed, the shares were of equal width, and the consequence was that sometimes the furrow turn by the forward share did not perfectly cover all the grass and weeds, but in the improvement this evil is avoided, by constructing it of only half the width of the hindermost one, the land

sides of both being in a line, so that the first furrow is not turned into the preceding one, but the one half of it is turned over upon the other half, while the share which follows, penetrates several inches deeper and turns the whole completely over into the furrow made by the previous bout, the loose subsoil turned up by the after share covering the whole completely up, to the depth of some two or three inches, and leaving no chance for the grass and weeds to spring up. All who have used this plow, thus improved, speak of it as working to a charm. We hope this plow will be brought into general use among our farmers.

*His Rollers.*—He showed us a specimen of iron roller, of his construction, which we wish could be generally adopted among us. We have described one in use in England, in two parts, so that in turning short around, one half would roll forward, upon the axle, and the other backward. Mr. Smith's is an improvement upon that, consisting, instead of two, of half a dozen parts, which still more facilitates the operation of turning.

*Clod Crusher.*—We described to "Uncle Aaron" a clod-crusher which we saw in England, and it struck him so favorably, that he says he will have one made for our farmers forthwith. It consists of a great number wheels, say 20 or 30, more or less, 2 or 3 feet in diameter, with serrated felloes, or edges, and all strung upon a single axle, close together. This roller will do more to pulverize the stiffest clays, after one plowing, than a dozen subsequent plowings.

*Marengo.*—At Marengo we were agreeably entertained by our friend Col. Maynard, who is located in one of the very best farming districts in the State. We have always admired the Marengo burr oak plains, and nowhere does the soil throw up more luxuriant crops.—The present wheat crop, in the neighborhood, has attained a wonderful growth. Col. M. remarked, that much of it, if mown now, would turn as heavy a swath as a good meadow.

He has himself no wheat upon the ground, having turned his attention mainly to stock. Being single-handed, he thinks it more profitable to devote his farm to grazing, than to be at the outlay for help which he it growing requires.

He has some excellent stock, embracing among his neat cattle, the finest pair of Devon Steers we have seen in a long time, and among his horses, a brood mare of a very superior order, with her colts of different ages to correspond. He has also a superior flock of sheep.

He showed us a meadow, which he had mown eleven times in ten years, and it had been continually gaining in productiveness, notwithstanding he had pastured it every year with sheep, we think, till the 10th or 12th of May in the spring, and then again after the crop came off, till late in the fall. The crop of hay was either fed upon the land, or its equivalent in manure returned. We understand him to say, that he had plastered it several times. It is stocked with timothy and clover.

Another field which was stocked and treated in a similar way, for seven years, except that it had only been plastered once, had also been gaining in productiveness the whole time.

We gleaned an interesting horticultural fact from him, which will be found under our horticultural head.

*Effects of thorough Farming.*—S. Neal, Esq., who has a large and beautiful farm, adjoining Col. M.'s, remarked to us, that he had given up the old system, and taken to deep plowing and thorough culture, and the consequence was a wonderful improvement in his crops.

*Fattening Hogs.*—He had a fine lot of hogs, and already well fattened. In thus bringing them forward, he realizes two advantages, first, much less grain is required to fatten them, comparatively little of it being consumed as fuel to generate the necessary animal heat, and secondly, he will have the advantage of a higher market, as the price always falls, after the close of navigation.

This last consideration, however, will probably be neutralized, after the present year, by the completion of the Canada Railroad.

*The Farmer's Calling.*—Jereimiah Brown, Esq., of Battle Creek, remarked, that, to be a great farmer, a man must be a great scholar. But if the farmer had a smart son, he was apt to think he must make a lawyer of him, or something which would give play to great talents, and if he had one that was almost a fool, why, he would do for a farmer. And thus it was, that the farmer's calling was disgraced,—a calling which should bring to its aid the highest order of talent and attainment. No man could be master of his business as an agriculturist, who could not analyze his soils, nor could he cultivate them to the highest advantage. And the more he knew, the more he would discover the necessity of knowing more, none being so doggedly conceited, as those who are the most ignorant. They were mere animals, and capable no other than animal enjoyment.

*Best Hay for Horses.*—Mr. B. remarked, that no kind of hay was more sought after there for horses, than a mixture of red-top and wild, or marsh hay, it being more free from dust than any other kind. Horses seemed to do better upon it, than upon any other sort. The red-top sown upon the marshes, would grow with the wild grass, ultimately running it out, though the latter would maintain the struggle for existence for years. He added, that while upland meadows suffered much from the drouth, the past season, the marshes yielded twenty per cent more hay than usual.

*Making Pork.*—Mr. B. thinks, that spring pigs, which, if of the right sort, can be made to weigh 250 lbs. by the 1st or middle of December, make the most profitable pork, and we think so too; the cost of wintering being all dispensed with.

Mr. Brown has a very pleasant location, upon a rising ground which overlooks the valley of the Kalamazoo.

More from him will be found under our horticultural head.

*Galls on Horses.*—A correspondent of the *Spirit of the Times*, writing from France says it is the practice in that country, when horses get their hair rubbed off, or the skin scarified, to apply a blister to the part *at once*.—This, if applied as soon as the injury is done, will it is said restore the growth of hair. He states that it has never been known to fail when applied in time.

*To PRESERVE CRANBERRIES.*—Dry them a short time, in the sun, and bottle them closely. Thus preserved, they will keep for years.—*Ex. paper.*

#### PICKINGS BY THE WAY—No. 4.

BY THE EDITOR.

*Visit to Gov. Throop.*—Availing ourselves of the kind invitation of our venerable friend, Governor Throop, we visited him at his residence at Spring Brook, in our late tour. And as the readers of the *Farmer* have not heard from him of late, it will doubtless be interesting to them to know how he is getting along. Surely it should be a source of gratification and pride, with our farmers, that such men are devoting their time, talents, energy and capital to the improvements of agriculture, and thus redeeming their noble calling from the odium which a class of simpletons are ever ready to cast upon it, and which, we may add, the low standard of farming generally, has given too much occasion for.

We were happy to find him in the enjoyment of good health, and as full of good cheer and good sense as ever. The ardor of his zeal, in the great cause of agricultural improvement, has suffered no abatement, but, on the other hand, it seems to glow more intensely, if possible, than when we saw him last.

*His Corn-house.*—One of the first improvements which attracted our attention, was his corn-house, which is built upon the side hill, being one story upon the upper, and two stories upon the lower side, there being a place in the lower story for kettles to boil roots, besides considerable room for other purposes, and from it is an entrance into the root cellar, which extends directly back into the bank.

*Seed Corn.*—Entering his corn-house above, the first thing which struck our attention, was his seed corn, which had been selected in the field, the largest and finest ears being chosen, and suspended by the husks over head.

There are two advantages in this mode of saving seed corn. In the first place, it undoubtedly improves the variety, increasing the yield very materially, thus to select the best ears. This is placed beyond controversy, by the united testimony of those who have made the experiment. In the next place, corn which is left late in the field, and when husked, thrown into a pile, from swelling and shrinking, and sometimes heating, often loses the power of germination, and this is sometimes the cause of the great loss the farmer frequently sustains by its not coming up.

*The best variety of Corn.*—He has both the white and yellow dent, the Dutton, and one or two other varieties but he gives a decided preference to the Dutton. It is an early variety, and its ears are all large and sound, while much of the dent does not ripen, particularly one of the two kinds, the yellow, we think, but are not certain. Another

advantage of the Dutton, he mentioned, is, that the hills can be planted much nearer, not more than three or three and a half feet apart being required, while the dent would not grow to advantage with the hills nearer than four and a half or five feet apart. And besides, he said each stalk of Dutton generally had two large ears on it, while the dent seldom had more than one ear to the stalk. Hence, he reasonably concludes that the Dutton is far superior in yield.

*Potatoe Culture.*—In his root cellar, he showed us a pile of pink-eye potatoes, of good size, raised somewhat after the fashion described in the foregoing article. After drop-

ping them in the furrow, he covered them with the plow, and then spread straw upon them, to the depth of six inches, which saved after cultivation, and more than that, saved his crop, for he said that potatoes planted by their side, in the usual way, were destroyed by the drouth, inasmuch that they were not worth digging. The mulching with straw keeps the ground moist, by checking evaporation.

*His Hogs.*—Near to his corn-house is his hog-stye, where we found a fine lot of hogs, a cross of the Leicester and Dorking, with some other blood, some of them being heavy pork. He thinks he can make them weigh four hundred at eighteen months old.

*Effect of draining a Marsh.*—On the back part of his farm, he has a fine marsh, or natural meadow, on which he sowed red-top four or five years ago, but it was so wet that it did not make its appearance. Recently he has cut a drain along under the hill which borders the marsh, four feet or more deep, to the gravelly bed beneath, thus cutting off the springs which issue at the foot of the upland, and which fed the marsh, and the consequence is, that the tame grass is coming in all over it. Along the edges of the ditch especially, it grows in rank luxuriance. Whether this is from the seed scattered years ago, or from what source it came, he seems at a loss to know.

We agree with Gov. T. that our marshes will make the very best land in the State, and further, that Michigan, as a whole, is the best agricultural State in the Union. At any rate, we intend to make it so.

*His Sheep.*—In going from the house to the back part of the farm, we passed through his sheep pasture, consisting of the portion of his farm which has not been brought under cultivation, oak openings in their native state, those natural parks which abound in our Peninsula, and which in romantic beauty, will vie with anything the old world has to show. Here his sheep luxuriated in fine feed, the live-long summer, while the pasture lands without were all parched with drouth.

We have before spoken of his fine flock of full blood merinoes. This year, his yield of wool was something over  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. to the fleece, which he sold at forty cents per pound, making about \$1.30 per head.

*Other Stock.*—He has a three year old short horn bull, which exhibits the points of a high bred animal, to a high degree of perfection. He has few superiors in this country.

He has a Messenger brood mare, and some very fine colts from her. He is about to introduce the Sampson breed, being an improvement on the English cart horse. He has added another quarter section to his farm, which gives him now, 760 acres.

Soon after parting with him at Kalamazoo, whither he had kindly taken us, it commenced raining, and rained hard for hours. We fear he must have suffered from the drenching he must have gotten in returning home.

*The Agriculturist.*—We have received the first No. of the Agriculturist, a large and handsome sheet, in newspaper form, devoted to Agriculture, and the great interests of society, as set forth in its prospectus, by A. B. Allen, Esq. New York, late editor of the Agriculturist, and a veteran in the cause. It will doubtless command an efficient support.

#### PICKINGS BY THE WAY—NO. 5.

BY THE EDITOR.

*Seeding to clover.*—The capital point is to secure germination to the tiny seed, and to protect it from the effects of drouth in the tender age of infancy. To this end, various methods have been proposed, and among them an apparently successful one by friend Ingersoll, as detailed in our last, viz: sowing the seed with the wheat.

Another method is recommended and practised with success, by friend McAllister, near Battle Creek. It consists in sowing the seed among corn, and dragging, or cultivating it in. Thus put in, it comes up well and surely, and grows with astonishing rapidity, getting ahead even of that sown upon wheat ground in the spring.

We remember to have seen a patch of clover which was thus sown among corn and cultivated in, upon the farm of Grindall Reynolds, Esq., in the township of Spring Arbor, about ten years ago, and its growth was so rapid and luxuriant as to astonish all who saw it.

*Stump Machine.*—Mr. McA. has a stump machine, of his own invention, we believe, which operates to a charm, and the beauty of it is that while it possesses all the necessary power, it is so simple and cheap as to be within the competency of every farmer. All you have to do, is to prepare a lever eighteen feet long, and a chain 4 feet long, with links made of inch, or inch and a quarter iron and a big ring at one end to slip on the big end of the lever, and a hook at the other. Lay the big end of the lever close to the side of the stump, and the ring being in its place upon the end, pass the chain around the stump, as far as it will go, and hook it, either under a root, or directly into the body of the stump, hitch one yoke of cattle to the small end of the lever, start them ahead, and up comes the stump, the chain passing from the lever around to its fastening in the stump one way, and the oxen passing round the other way.

We understood him to say, that he had thus taken out a hundred and forty stumps in half a day. Mr. McA. mentioned this invention to us two years ago, but he wished to test its merits more thoroughly before publishing it, and as a consequence, he is now prepared to speak in unqualified terms of its great utility. He asks nothing for the secret, and will take nothing, beyond the luxury of having contributed to the stock of farm implements, a machine, which he believes the best ever invented to clear away those unsightly objects, which, to a greater or less extent, infest and deform almost every farm in the State. Thus he not only hopes to aid in relieving the farmer of a troublesome nuisance, and in beautifying his premises, but to put money in his purse, and thus contribute to his comfort and enjoyment.

*Is it best to feed off forward Wheat?*—This question was not only asked us by Mr. McA., but by many others. We have never seen so luxuriant a wheat crop in this State, at this season of the year, much of it being in a very forward state. In reply to the above question, we say unhesitatingly, *feed it off*, or it will certainly be killed down to the ground, if we have much snow, and in that case, you will not have half a crop.

If you were sure it would not be smothered by the snow, we would say, *let it grow*, for feeding it down would

probably injure it some. But you have no such security, and it is better to submit to a certain small loss, than to run so imminent a risk of a great one—is it not?

How much injury feeding may do, we do not feel competent to say, but as the leaves are both the lungs and the stomach of a plant, it is reasonable to conclude, that some injury would result.

Some are shy about turning cattle upon wheat, fearing they may tread it up, but never mind that, unless you have a heavy soil, and the season is wet. On all the lighter soils, the treading of the cattle will do the wheat good, rather than harm. The philosophy of it we cannot stop to argue here.

Mr. McA. has some excellent stock. Among his neat stock he has a heifer, two years old, a cross of short horn and Holderness, for which he has refused fifty dollars—she is a beautiful animal. He has the same breed of hogs of which we have spoken several times, a cross the Leicester and Byfield.

He has a meadow, of thirty acres, stocked with clover and timothy, from which he harvested, last year we think, seventy tons of hay. He gives it a dressing of plaster occasionally.

*Cultivation of Marshes.*—At Decator, Van Buren Co. we met with C. T. Tucker, Esq., a very intelligent farmer, and it was truly a luxury to come in contract with one so warmed up with the spirit of agricultural improvement. He has a marsh, through which runs a considerable but it was always very wet, even upon the banks of the stream. But he went to work and plowed quite a strip of it along the stream, and the consequence was, that the water, which before stood upon it, all settled away, and he had tremendous crops of both corn and potatoes, the first season, the corn (dent) growing seventeen feet high, and the potatoes rolling out of immense size, and excellent quality; the soil being perfectly dry and mellow—The close peaty surface held the water like a dish, and when it was broken, it settled away at once. His neighbors laughed and called him “a fool for his pains,” predicting, that he would be swamped.

He turned over the sod with one yoke of oxen, and dug holes in it for the corn and potatoes, as best he could. The water in every marsh would not thus settle away he said, but the experiment showed what our marshes were capable of.

*The Potatoe rot.*—Our readers have already been informed of several instances, in which persons have supposed, that their potatoes had been saved from the rot, by cutting them and only planting two or three eyes in a hill. What is singular, these persons, living in different parts of the State, simultaneously bear witness to the same thing, or rather express the same conviction, as the result of their experience. Mr. Tucker, not knowing, that any one else had the same convictions, said to us that he had discovered a remedy for the potatoe rot, and went on to say that it consisted in the above method of planting.

We have never given much heed to the different dis-  
*overies* upon this subject, alledged to have been made, but planting in the above method, will secure as good potatoes, as any other way, and at as little expense, so that one may as well adopt it, as not to, and per chance there may be something in it. If it required a person to go much out of his way, or to be much out of pocket, we

should be slow to recommend its adoption, but, as it is, we do not hesitate to say, “plant *cut* potatoes.”

*The drouth East—Its effect.*—Having passed the night pleasantly, at the hospitable mansion of Judge Dexter, just as we were about to step upon the cars, we met with E. Arnold, E. q., who had just returned from the East, and who said, that, in consequence of the drouth, stock of every description, was selling off for any price they could get for it. Of two thousand cattle he saw in the Brighton market, not five hundred of them were fat. The lean ones were to be barrelled.

This, of course, will make stock high there another year, and when the Canada Railroad shall be finished (one year hence) our farmers will have a hand in supplying the demand. The cost of transporting neat cattle, will not probably exceed eight dollars per head, from Detroit to Boston.

*Sheep on Marshes.*—He remarked that sheep would do well on marshes, if they had up-land to run on. Pastures consisting of part marsh and part upland, were as good as all upland.

He said there had been a great many sheep bought up in this State this fall, to go to Wisconsin.

#### A FARMER'S BANK PROPOSED.

Not the “United States Bank,”—peace to ashes—but quite another sort of a bank,—one adapted to the wants and circumstances of the farmers of the west, and one which will extend its accommodations to all without respect of persons, whether they be rich or poor—a bank whose loans, instead of sinking them deeper and deeper in debt, will infallibly lift them above all embarrassment, and lay no obligation upon them in return which they cannot at any time discharge, with very little inconvenience.

Now who would not have such a bank? Who would not like to be a stockholder in it? Who would not aid in establishing it? *Who?* If any, let him speak—let him marshal his strong reasons, for we are in earnest about the matter, and intend to have one set right up here, in this very City, in the name of the “Farmers of the State of Michigan, and those of all other States who choose to join in the enterprise, and for their special accommodation. The books are already open—who will take stock?

How much money do you suppose it would be in your pocket, if two or three hundred of the most successful farmers in the State, were to make a journey to you personally, and unfold to you the entire secret of their success, each one detailing the process by which he has been enabled to obtain results in particular departments of farming which astonish you? *How much?*

Do you say, that so far as you are concerned, such a thing would be a glorious consummation, but that it is useless to speculate upon, or hope for an impossibility—that nobody will be at the trouble and expense to come to you, and that you have not the money to offer them as an inducement?

Very well, you are right, farmer A. and it is to put you in a way to enjoy all these advantages without all his trouble and expense, that we are getting up this

bank. All that is asked, is, that each one write out such parts of his experience, as may be of advantage to others, and put it in as so much stock, and this shall entitle him to draw upon the whole mass of experience which may be accumulated from the contributions of others, without stint.

Now would not this be a cheap way of realizing an advantage which many of you would pay a large amount to enjoy, if it were not otherwise attainable.

Let the Michigan Farmer then, from this time forth be regarded as "The Farmer's Bank." And again, we ask, who will take stock?

Do you say you cannot send us the coin ready struck for circulation. No matter, send us the bullion then; we have a mint as well as a bank, and can readily manufacture bullion into current coin. Who will take stock?

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT MANURING PUT.

FRIEND ISHAM.—I am, or pretend to be, a cultivator of the soil for a living, and, like most others, am too frequently puzzled to know how to manage in many particulars, in carrying on the business, and knowing your ability to give advice, and your willingness too, I am inclined to ask a few questions, in which all Agriculturists are interested. I am about to haul about 200 loads of what I think good dressing for Corn, Wheat, and Clover land, if I manage it right. The most I intend to haul is deposited at the road side, in a low situation, black and mucky, where cattle have resorted for water in dry weather, ever since the town was settled. You doubtless have observed many such deposits in your travels over the State. Is it best to deposit it as hauled in small heaps, where I intend to apply it on the ground, or put it into the barn yard until spring, and mix with barn yard manure? Either way, do you think it a good dressing among apple trees, where I intend to raise corn.

M. A. T.

#### REPLY.

Undoubtedly it would be better to deposit the muck in the yard and mix it with stable manure. A chemical combination would be the consequence, which would greatly improve its quality. The acidity of the muck would be neutralized by the alkali of the stable manure, and other chemical changes would transpire. Freezing in heaps, it is true, is said to destroy the acidity, how effectually we do not know. Our impression is in favor of mixing it with barn yard manure. Suppose you try both ways to some extent, and give us the result.

Strong barn yard manure is not good for fruit trees but a compound of muck, ashes and lime, is excellent, and some barn yard manure may be added.—ED.

PLANTING SEEDS IN AUTUMN.—We think it quite an object to try a few experiments in regard to the planting of many garden seeds in autumn. We have no doubt that if it be properly done, onions, parsnips, beets, carrots, and several other vegetables, would do better, so planted, than they as planted in the spring.

We would like to see the experiment of planting an acre of potatoes so late in the fall that they would not vegetate until the following spring. We have all seen potatoes that have been left at digging time,

throw up stalks in the spring following, and produce a good yield. These instances are only accidental ones, and we do not know what proportion of those left in the autumn actually vegetates—whether they all did or only a part of them.

By planning a known piece of ground regularly, it would demonstrate more clearly the advantages and disadvantages of the plan.

We clip the following from the *Germantown Telegraph*, wherein the writer recommends the fall sowing of onions?

"The rot or worm in the onion has of late in some sections, and particularly in New England, I am informed—the great onion country—rendered the cultivation of this valuable vegetable nearly if not quite as the potato. If the seed is sown in the spring—no matter how early—as it generally is with us, there will be a liability, to say the least, that this disease will greatly injure, if not wholly destroy the crop. But if we sow in autumn the roots will rarely be affected by it. This fact deserves to be extensively known, as autumnal sowing is, the only surely effectual preventative to be applied. The Yankees, who are universally acknowledged to be "cute" in almost everything, now practice this plan almost universally, and with entire success. I throw out the suggestion at this time, hoping that it may be of service to some of my brother farmers who are not aware of the practice, or that any infallible remedy for the worm exists.—*Value Farmer.*

#### AGREEABLE SURPRISE.

PONTIAC, Mich., Nov. 18.

MR. ISHAM—Dear Sir:

I have just seen and examined a copy of your valuable periodical, the *Michigan Farmer*, and am surprised that I have never had an opportunity of seeing such an invaluable aid, in the shape of a farmer's monthly, to the farmers of the Peninsula State. I am convinced that the "Farmer" should have a circulation of 5000 in this State. Now, I think I can increase your subscription list by at least a dozen in Pontiac, and I think if you would send me two or three numbers, I can use them to great advantage in getting up a club. Hoping that you may have success in all your labors, I remain yours, with respect,

M. E. N. HOWELL.

#### REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.

Our friends may learn from the above, among multitudes of other instances, that they have only to give their neighbors an opportunity of becoming a little acquainted with the *Michigan Farmer*, to succeed, in many cases, in getting their names. We will forward extras to all who desire them.

Friend Howell seems to be taken by surprise, on stumbling upon such a paper in Michigan, and says it ought to have a circulation of 5000, and we will now surprise him again, by informing him, that it has about 5000 subscribers already, and that we are looking for an accession of 5000 more. Nothing short of that will begin to satisfy our aspirations, and from all we can learn, we are in a fair way to have them.

## EDUCATIONAL.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
STATE NORMAL SCHOOL—THE RIGHT SPIRIT  
IN A LADY.

MR. ISHAM:

In perusing the last number of the Michigan Farmer, I noticed a piece relating to the educational interests of this State, in which allusion is made to the Normal School, and which, after bestowing encomiums on the success of its opening, concluded by saying that this Institution "had sent out two hundred young men to be employed as teachers of our youth," making no mention of nearly the same number of ladies who were members of that Institute; from which I infer that you did not consider them worthy the same notice as the gentlemen. I cannot assign any possible reason for this neglect, as I am not aware of any misdemeanor on their part. Are we to be considered so much inferior in abilities, to those of the opposite sex, as to be entirely disregarded, (when speaking of teachers,) when we compose a majority employed in our State?

Do we not labor as many hours in the school-room, and are we not subjected to as many inconveniences in picking up our board? and what is our compensation? Not more than one-half the sum awarded the gentlemen. If our qualifications are equal, and our labors the same, ought we not to be equally remunerated? In forming the State Teacher's Association, our rights were not considered unequal to those of the gentlemen.

Very respectfully,

A MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE.

COLDWATER, Nov. 18, 1852.

## REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.

We beg pardon for the above unintentional neglect and apparent disregard of the claims of the better half of creation, and sincerely thank our fair friend for setting us right, and vindicating the just rights of her sex.

We derived what information we gave upon the subject, from one of the young gentlemen who had been in attendance at the institution and who happened in at our office. We have not the slightest recollection that he said a word about the Ladies' Department; and as we had been absent from the country for a year and a half, we shall readily be pardoned for not being posted up in the matter. However, we are gratified to learn, that the information derived from him, was correct, as far as it went, and still more gratified to be informed that a Ladies' Department is in successful operation in the same Institution.

Certainly, we regard this department as no less important than the other—why should we? Who does not know the fact mentioned above, that females constitute a majority of the teachers of our children and youth—and that other fact also, that it should always be so?

He who is not proficient enough to know, that the female mind, and the female heart are peculiarly adapted by the Creator of us all, to the task of unfolding the susceptibilities, and giving direction to the aspirations of childhood and youth, had better himself go to school.

This consideration has not received its due appreciation, and until it does, and a fair compensation is given to induce females of richly endowed minds to embark in the divine work of fashioning the minds and hearts of those who are to come after us, our educational system will be incomplete.

We hope the author of the above will allow us to enter her name on the list of our lady correspondents.

## A WORD MORE ABOUT IT.

Yes, it is true, it is not a problem which is yet to be solved, that the delicate and responsible task of educating the youthful mind, in the earlier stages of its development, should be entrusted to the plastic hand of woman, and never to the bungling hands of the other sex. Gifted by nature with instincts which fit her to appreciate the feelings, and to stimulate into activity, the susceptibilities of childhood and youth, never does woman appear in so glorious an attitude, as when engaged in this divine work.

And divine, it truly is, to be employed in placing before the susceptible minds of children and youth, truths and motives, whose influences are to play around the heart, and stamp character upon it. No human being except the parents, can do this with such power and effect, as the beloved teacher, and when that teacher is a woman, and that woman is qualified for her task, who can estimate the power of the influence which distils like the dew from her lips?

And of all the employments of earth, what one is to be compared, in dignity and importance, to this? What one of them all, participates so much of a God-like character? Under God, the teacher rises to the dignity of a creator, a creator of character, and a controller of destinies. How then does it become those who engage in this responsible business, to look well to their qualifications; not only to their capacity to teach the rudiments required, but to their *aptitude and fitness* for such a work.

At what age the pupil should pass from the hands of the female, to those of the male teacher, we do not feel competent to say. Certain it is, however, that well qualified female teachers have shown a capacity to carry forward, even boys, much further in their educational course than has generally been conceded them.

And now that we have a Normal School, and a department in it set apart for the training of female teachers, we trust the standard of qualification will be so elevated, and the standard of compensation too, as to call into the field a class of such teachers, richly endowed with qualifications for the high vocation.

These remarks by no means imply, that we have had no competent and deserving teachers heretofore in the field. Many such we have, we are proud to say, scattered over our peninsula, but they are comparatively few and far between, while the majority, we are sorry to add, are very far from possessing the qualifications requisite to the proper discharge of the high duties which devolve upon them.

Those who had promised us communications for our educational department this month, all failed, and at the last moment, rather than have nothing go out, we hastily penned the above. But if the friends of the cause do not feel interest enough in the subject to contribute to th

department, we shall be tempted to blot it from existence. And only think what an influence will thus be lost to the cause. We calculate, that the next volume of the Farmer will be read by not less than a hundred thousand persons.

P. S. Since writing the above, the valuable communication of friend Kent has come to hand, and we crowd it in.

For the Michigan Farmer.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS.

MR. ISHAM—SIR:

I was reminded, by your calling the roll, of my connexion with your regiment. Please excuse my absence from the post of duty. I have heretofore given you *some* reasons, why our primary schools so often fail to answer the reasonable expectations of parents and others. The reason I shall now mention is, that teachers seldom realize the *responsibility of their station*.

Being mostly persons in early life, who have not weighed the importance of developing the human intellect, by a regular course of scientific and moral instruction, they have engaged to "teach school" a few months, perhaps to fill up a vacant space of unoccupied time; or to while away the winter season in the enjoyment of ease, or pleasurable recreations. How seldom do such persons even *think* how much of the future happiness or unhappiness of their employers depends upon their fidelity or unfaithfulness! Let us follow such a teacher, as he enters a district to take charge of the school for the season. At the school house door, he is met by a respectable member of the district, who thus accosts him, "Sir, as it is certified by our School Inspectors, that you are a person of a *good moral character*, I would entrust to your care a precious treasure. I have lately sold my farm and buildings, all I possessed, for cash, which I have exchanged for these precious gems enclosed in this little casket, which I now confide to your faithful guardianship, confident that you will protect it from the arts of designing men, nor suffer it to be lost by neglect, or suffer its lustre to grow dim by inattention; but when called for, returned, improved in brilliancy and in value. Remember this is my all."

Our teacher now begins to think that this is serious business; but here comes another parent with his little casket of jewels, entrusting it to his care with the same assurance; and then another and another, until every man in the district has deposited his all to the safe keeping of this young man or woman, whose object, in going there was perhaps, to escape from care and toil. What a disappointment! What a tremendous weight of responsibility now rests upon this individual! What distress and suffering may his unfaithfulness cause to a whole district! How vigilant, anxious and industrious must he be, that he may be able to return to their respective owners the treasures thus committed to him for a season, and for which he is held accountable! But the half is not yet told.

These parents do in *reality* commit to the teacher of youth treasures far more valuable than gold or gems.—Their *children* are their treasures, and not lands or houses. If their minds are expanded and stored with scientific lore, and their moral powers improved by the inculcation

of the principles of moral virtue, (thus laying the foundation of a useful and virtuous life,) then the parent is happy. But if they are left, through the inattention or inability of teachers, to grow up in ignorance and vice; the parent is unhappy; be his riches what they may; for believe me, no couch is so soft, no pillow so easy, as to beguile a parent to repose, who is aware that a beloved child is spending the midnight hours with riotous men, and contracting habits of vice and immorality that will bring him to a premature grave.

It is sincerely wished that all our teachers of schools would view the subject in this important light, and act accordingly as their consciences may dictate, then I think we should hear less complaint of the inutility of our schools.

R. KENT.

ADRIAN, Nov. 25, 1852.

#### ARE STONES A NUISANCE?

Says the G. M. Culturist:

There are probably but very few farmers who are aware that every 100 pounds of many of the stones on their fields have 10 pounds of the elements of their crops bound up and confined, awaiting some chemical or mechanical operation to set them free. If this is the fact, what immense value would it be to the people of this stony landed state to understand some simple method by which to manufacture them into valuable produce.

*More about Stones.*—Says the N. E. Farmer: It is an error to suppose that stones should be entirely removed from under cultivation. The stones which would be in the way of the scythe while mowing, of course should be removed, but all the smaller ones should remain; and if wholly or partially imbedded in the soil, they preserve the moisture during a drought, and thus serve materially to increase the crop. The following article from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, published in 1773, is to the point:

Several thousand acres bordering on the turnpike roads from Wellwyn to Baldock, have been so much impoverished by being picked over, that the loss to the inheritance forever must be computed at a great many thousand pounds. What puts it beyond a doubt that the prodigious impoverishment of the land is owing to no other cause but picking and carrying away the stones, is, that those lands have generally been most impoverished, which have been most often picked; nay, I know a field, part of which was picked, and the other part plowed up before they had time to pick it, where the part that was picked lost seven or eight parts in ten, of two succeeding crops; and though the whole field was manured and managed in all respects alike, yet the impoverishment was visible where the stones had been picked off and extended not an inch further; an incontestible proof of the benefit of the stones."

*A PREVENTIVE AGAINST MOTHS.*—Take cloves, caraway seeds, nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, and Tonquin, of each one ounce; then add as much Florentine orris-root as will equal the other ingredients put to ether. Grind the whole well to powder, and then put in little bags, among your clothes, &c. It is a pleasant perfume and will keep away moths.

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## LINES.

BY VALERIE VALENCIE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

Welcome, wanderer o'er the sea,  
Welcome to thy Western home;  
Hearts are here, the brave, the free,  
They rejoice that thou art come.

Loving ones will twine a wreath  
A Caesar well might stoop to claim,  
Of flowers, which never bloomed beneath  
The Eastern skies; o'er the distant main.

Our *hearts* are warm, though cold the clime,  
Affection lives 'neath a win'ry sky,  
And Friendship glows mid sleet and storm,  
It visits earth, but dwells on high.

Ye tell of Italy's blooming fair,  
Of England's lotty, high-born dame,  
Of Scotland lass mid mountain air,  
And twine for them a wreath of Fame.

Now turn ye to thy own blest land,  
Where the proud Eagle cleaves the sky,  
Where Freedom's sons extend the hand,  
To guard the home of Liberty,

And own the power of cheerin' words,  
That greet thee on its shore,  
Like the wild song of Summer birds,  
And stray from their sound no more.

Dexter, November 4th, 1852.

## NOTES FROM BOHEMIA.

BY THE EDITOR.

On a delightful morning in the month of June, in the venerable old city of Prague, the Capitol of Bohemia, we arose at the peep of day, and after wandering here and there for a time, ascended a promenade which was raised from forty to sixty feet, forming an embankment of that height, several rods across, and extending around the city. Along on the top of it was a broad gravel walk, lined on either side with the horse chestnut and the linden, with tufts of flowers here and there interspersed, laden with dew drops glittering in the beams of the rising sun. The goodly old city of Prague, with its dingy architectural piles, lay beneath the eye on the one hand and on the other was spread out a succession of green fields, variegated with hills and dales, fruit trees, and woodlands. All nature seemed to be rejoicing in the freshness of the morning. The birds carolled forth their sweetest music, and the flocks and herds were enjoying their morning repast.

Was it not a beautiful place? Was it not a place to resign one's self to noble impulses? Was not that the hour and that the place which should have drawn from their drowsy pillows the sons and daughters of sloth?—What, *daughters*! Yes, *daughters*, and to crown the charming scene, allow us to say, that even at that early hour, the promenade was thronged from end to end, with the beauty and fashion of the city. But were youn-

ladies out a walking so early in the morning as that?—Indeed they were, fresh and beautiful as the rose-buds by their path, and as gleeful as the birds. When was such a sight ever seen in an American city? When and where?

Far be it from us to disparage the claims of our fair country women. As a whole we think them superior to anything the old world has to show. But does it therefore follow that there is nothing in the character of the sex as there developed, by which they can be improved? Nay, in this very thing, might not our families be profited by their example?

Action is the law of our being, and the man or the woman who sinks into inaction, is a transgressor, and must meet a transgressor's reward in the catalogue of ills which follow in the train, such as physical weakness, ennui and a morbid sensibility, the bane of all comfort and enjoyment.

We do not mean to say, that our ladies generally resign themselves to such a state of inglorious nothingness, but that the *tendency* of things among us is to such a result, who can deny?

One thing is certain to our mind, viz: that *vanity* which has been so indiscriminately charged upon the sex, is not a predominating feature in the American female character. What better evidence can we have of this, than the indifference they manifest to the means of increasing their attractions? How can they be called vain, when, by so cheap and simple a process as that of exercise in the open air, they could add strength and vigor to their constitutions, cause the rose to bloom upon their cheeks, impart elasticity to their steps, give a mingled playfulness to their spirits, as well as greatly enlarge their stock of comfort and enjoyment, and yet with all these powerful incentives before them, remain as unmoved as tho' the principle of vanity had been expurgated from their hearts.

Do you say, then, that our females, being thus raised above so grovelling a motive, show, in this respect, a decided superiority to the females of the old world? Take it which way you will.

There is a counterpart to the above picture, however, which we may give at another time.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
TO THE LADIES.

A withered leaf! A connecting link in the chain of memory is this—and recalls the endearing association, of other days. O yes, already has autumn robed the trees in her livery of varied hues. When last we met, the bright glossy green leaves rejoiced in the summer spray—a change has come, and they are now clad in the gorgeous attire of scarlet and gold, purple, dun, and vermillion. Out, then, to the woodlands once more! and breathe the "last fragrant sighs of the summer's nurslings as they go to their richly strewn bier," and there you will find the "withered leaf," which has a homily in itself. You cannot fail to stop and think—such thoughts will lead you away to the great creator I have been out for the mosses and the "sear and yellow leaf" which rustled on the moss-beds, made me forget for a while, the busy cares of "every day life—and in their stead came a soothing influence which could not fail to make the heart better, and fill the mind with

softer, sweeter emotions! I am fearful we do not appreciate these grand beauties. To a European an American autumn is a world of beauty—there is poetry in the very association—shall we at home forget to gather a remembrance?—Out to the woodlands, once more I say, gather bouquets of leaves, arrange them tastefully as ornaments for the parlor mantle—weave them into wreaths—and forget not the getting of wisdom from all seasons and changes.

J.

Pleasant Farm.

## EVENING.

MR. ISHAM:

The Nov. number of the Farmer is on our reading table this evening, and "Cora's letter, addressed to J. \*\*\* before me. Many many thanks for the favor. It shall be answered, but write you again—was that your first effort? you did well—"fail not upon your peril," as the lawyers say, to write again. Adieu. In haste.

J. \*\*\*.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## THE TRUE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

DEXTER, November 3d, 1852.

Well Mr. Editor, I must say that my *curiosity*, (that fatal propensity so predominant in all the daughters of Eve,) has at length been, in a measure, gratified.—I have at length heard, or rather *seen* your opinion of the *English Ladies*, those lofty, high-born dames who dwell far over the blue sea. I was somewhat disappointed, for I was in expectation of quite a lengthy epistle, concerning the *nobility*, for I have an intense longing to know, (to say nothing of appreciating,) wherein lies their supremacy. In nine cases out of ten Americans who visit England find some peculiar charm, not only in the country, but in the English character, and imbibe a portion of that *aristocracy* for which they are so noted. Even the gifted Grace Greenwood seems to have become *extremely fascinated* with every body, and everything which she meets on the other side of the Atlantic; nay, one would almost think that she envied some of the *nobility* their claims to the title, instead of proudly appearing in her true American character.

When the heroes of seventy-six proudly declared their independence, they were denominated *rebels* by the English, and richly did they merit the title, and they felt it to be a patriotic honor to wear it. They not only rebelled against the *injustice* of England, but against many of her *customs*, and though *rusticity* has supplanted *nobility*, the brightness of the American character has not been diminished, but on the contrary, has continually increased in lustre. Who can point to an American, in whose bosom beats a patriotic heart, who would not willingly lay down his life for the welfare of his country? But in how many hearts does the fire of patriotism go out, as soon as the broad Atlantic rolls between him and his native land? He forgets that he is the living ambassador of a free country when breathing the air of a Monarchy, tho' that very government be the one which so inhumanly ground its subjects beneath the iron heel of Despotism, and caused them to rise in opposition to a tyrannical power.—*Was a bold spirit, when various freedom, it was a*

*bold arm which dared to inflict the blow, and now let the sons and daughters of Liberty boldly carry out the designs of those who periled life and limb in the contest. He who would treat a King with more consideration than the President of his own republic is not worthy the name of American.*

But I have strayed from my subject, which was in regard to the Ladies of England. Grace Greenwood, of whom I have spoken before, seems never to have met with one in all England but ranked high in the scale of moral and intellectual refinement. I would humbly ask how this is? Has the American character become *so corrupted* that there may occasionally be found one who is a blot on its fair page? Are there *so much* better advantages for *learning* in the Old World than in the New, that *here* we sometimes find one who is nearly destitute of education? And finally has *America* become *so degenerate* that her sons and daughters ape the aristocracy of her Oppressors? True it is, that many of our writers who visit the Old World, seem greatly biased in its favor; why it is my poor brain cannot determine; on the other hand, English writers who have *honored* our country with their presence, have published disgusting accounts of the degradation of our Republic. Dickens, for instance, after having been received with all the cordiality of an American welcome, and treated with the greatest respect while treading our soil, having every possible attention paid to him which would show the generosity of the "*uncivilized hours*" in the most agreeable light, published, on his return to England, what? not a *eulogium* on our beloved Union, but a downright calumny sufficient to cause every *true heart* to boil with indignation.

But I must cut short my invectives, simply adding that I am pleased to find that you do not look upon the English character as being a *model* of true excellence, after which *we uncivilized barbarians* must copy in order to arrive to any degree of perfection. Most sincerely do I hope you will again take up the pen in behalf of the Ladies Department, and give us sketches of the wonders of the East occasionally.

Yours, Respectfully

VALERIE VALENCIE.

RECEIPT FIRST—FOR PRESERVING WILD PLUMS.—Take your plums from the tree when they are fully grown, but not mellow, say when you can find a half dozen or so of mellow ones, you will then know they are fully grown. Heat a kettle of water boiling hot, weigh your plums, throw them into the boiling water, and let them remain over the fire until it boils again. Then let them stand in the water for 15 or 20 minutes. Then drain it off, and have ready more boiling water, turn it on them, and let it again stand 15 or 20 minutes, and then turn that off. Then take them from the kettle, and place them in a pan. Now melt your sugar with the addition of a little water, (having as much in weight as of your fruit) turn it on the fruit warm, not hot. Let it remain 24 hours, then turn off the syrup, boil it down to a proper consistency to keep. Then cool and turn it on the fruit again. Then when fully cold, put it in jars, with buttered papers laid on the surface to exclude the air. Then tie over the jars strong papers, or cloth. In about two weeks, it will be fit for use.

## MICHIGAN FARMER.

Warren Isham, Editor.

DETROIT, DECEMBER, 1852.

TO OUR FRIENDS NORTH AND NORTH-WEST.

We will say to our friends in the Grand River Valley, and in the Counties North, embracing Allegan, Ottawa, Barry, Kent, Livingston, Clinton, Genesee, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Lapeer and Macomb, that if they will arouse themselves and send us 'lots of subscribers' for the next volume, we will visit them all in the course of the year, should no unforeseen providence prevent.

We have had many kind invitations to extend our excursions to those important parts of our State, but have not yet done so for two reasons—first, it is an expensive business for us to venture far off the railroads, and in the next place, the mass of our subscribers are in the vicinity of these roads. We should delight to visit those rising portions of our State, and certainly will, if our friends there do as well as we think they will in extending our subscription list. There are some noble spirits there, to whose efforts we are greatly indebted, but a great many more must enlist, before the Farmer gets the footing in those Counties to which their population entitles it.—Who will enlist? Who?

## THE PRICE OF THE FARMER.

Those who are not satisfied with the price of the Farmer now, with the quantity of matter we give, would not be satisfied with anything. Our friend Jeremiah Brown, of Battle Creek, very truly remarked to us the other day, that however much the price might be reduced, there would always be some who would want it still lower.—Another friend McAllister, who lives four miles beyond Battle Creek, returned one man as a member of a club, who refused to have the paper at the club price, and actually paid his dollar, because he said it was not right for any man to have the benefit of such a paper for less, and so said friend Bristol, of Oakland.

## THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

From our having been so long gone, we were not so well posted up in some matters as we otherwise should have been, and, as a consequence, in giving the list of honored names in our October No. we omitted some who had been our most efficient volunteers in extending the circulation of the Farmer. Among these was friend McAllister in the neighborhood of Battle Creek, than whom no one deserved better. Meeting him the other day, he remarked pleasantly, that he supposed we struck him off because he relaxed his efforts the last year, and added, that he was making arrangements for an extensive and vigorous effort this year, in the hope of redeeming his character, and getting back again upon the honored list.

That is the right spirit, and we trust that others who were unintentionally omitted, as friend Sutton, of Tecumseh, and doubtless many others, will be animated by the same. We will not undertake to correct the list this year, as we could not probably with the utmost care, make it complete. But next year we shall know whose names t<sup>h</sup> all, and there shall not be a drone among them.

## A WORD MORE TO OUR FRIENDS.

To our friends we would say, that for twenty-five years we have not enjoyed as good health as we have since our return. With a renovated constitution, we calculate to perform twice the labor we did before, and do it twice as well.

And nowhere on this globe should we so delight to expend the energies which have thus come back upon us afresh, as in this very State of Michigan. But we cannot think of being confined in our efforts to so small a portion of its population as now come within the reach of our influence. We cannot be happy among you, unless the circulation of the Farmer can be so extended as to bring every farm house and every log cabin throughout our borders, within the sweep of its influence. Such a consummation would be more gratifying to our feelings than to come in possession of a mountain of gold. If we know our own heart, the pittance we get from each of our subscribers, is a minor consideration with us, any further than it aids us in the accomplishment of the great object before us.

Who then will join the noble host already in the field? We do not ask you to work for nothing. If the premiums we offer are not sufficient, we will give you more.

There are a *very, very* few individuals in the State, who, from personal pique, are "compassing sea and land" to destroy us, but from all we can learn, our friends intend to set us as far ahead, as they intend to set us back. After struggling for years, we have just got into a position to do good among you, and we want to share the luxury with as many of you as will consent to participate—only let the good be done, and we care little who has the honor, or the emolument, if any there is. Who then, will join the noble band?

## PAYING CLUB PRICES.

Our club prices are strictly in advance, and we only give a little indulgence to agents, who become responsible. Some seem to have fallen into the error, that because they were once members of a club they are always members, and may pay the club price individually any time in the course of the year into the office. But, man alive, what is a club, and what is its life? Did you ever know one to live to be more than a year old? That is the utmost time of its existence, but there is a very easy way of bringing it to life again, which, you understand as well as we. To allow a member of a club to take his own time to pay, at club rates, would lay us under obligation to grant to single subscribers the same privilege, for nothing short of that would place them upon a footing of equal justice.

**IF A TRUE STATEMENT.**—For the benefit of those of our friends who may have indulged the thought, that we have been making money too fast, we submit the following statement. When we started for Europe, we left the establishment with near five thousand subscribers, and out of debt, with a month's supply of paper paid for in advance. During our absence, not one shilling was transmitted to us, and yet, when we returned, we found it near four hundred dollars in debt, and had we not brought home some money with us, we hardly know what we should have done.

## REMOVAL.

The Office of the "Michigan Farmer," will be removed after the issue of the present No., to Woodward Avenue just below King's corner, and directly opposite the Mariner's Church and Post Office.

## FARMER'S BANK

We invite attention to the proposition we have made in another column for the establishment of a Farmer's Bank, for the mutual benefit of the farmers of the North-West. Don't be startled, it is no wild cat concern, and besides, you will see by this month's Farmer, that it is already in successfull operation, only we want to increase the number of stockholders—the books are open, and the stock is fast being taken.

## A GOOD YIELD.

G. W. O. writing from Park, St. Joseph County, says that B. Perrine of that place, sheared from seven yearling bucks and 18 ewes, 175 lbs of well washed wool, which is 7 lbs per head on the average, and the ewes raised lambs. He says that farmers are improving their flocks very fast in that quarter. Mr. Perrine's sheep are a mixture of French and Spanish Merino; the fleeces are very heavy and compact.

Farmers in that region have every facility for growing fine wool that need be desired, so far as soil and climate are concerned. We know of a number of fine flocks in that county.

## PICTORIAL HISTORY OF INDIA &amp; CHINA.

Comprising a description of those countries and their inhabitants, embracing the historical events, government, religion, education, language, literature, arts, manufactures, productions, commerce, and manners and customs of the people, from the earliest period of authentic record, to the present time, edited by Robert Sears, illustrated with one hundred engravings, New York—Robert Sears publisher, 1851."

Mr. Sears somehow "has the knack" of getting up books, which "take" amazingly with the public. The above work is one of no ordinary interest, comprising about 600 pages, and is "got up," in splendid parlor style; for sale cheap at the book store of M. Allen, in this city.

We owe an apology to our readers for the bad paper, and bad mechanical execution of our last No., especially some portions of it. Such a calamity will not be likely to occur again.

Some communications came too late for the present No. They must be sent pretty early in the month to have any security against lying over.

Those of our subscribers who are in arrears, will see, that we have done better by them than we threatened. We thought we would make one more appeal to the better feelings of their nature.

To aid those who are getting up clubs, we will agree to send the splendid engraving of the great crystal palace in New York, to all new subscribers to the next volume.

## A WORD ABOUT WORDS.

Some of you who have an agricultural experience rich in instruction, think you cannot write well enough to appear in print. And you never will write well enough, till you dismiss that miserable thought. What do you think of your editor's style of writing? According to your standard it must be a very poor one, for we always use the simplest and most common words we "come across," and never go a step out of our way to hunt up nice words, leaving that business to those who have nothing else to recommend them. Dismiss then forever the false idea, that your communications, if you send any, must all be written over and put into "high flown" language, to be fit to appear in print. Corrections and modifications they may need, and if so, it is our business to administer them, but we want you to appear in your own farmer's dress, using farmer's words, and giving us farmer's ideas—that is what we want. Come now, don't tell us any more about not being able to use proper language to appear in print, unless you want to make yourselves ridiculous. There is a charm about the plain talk of the farmer, which you may look for in vain in the starch and tinsel of the literary coxcomb.

## PAYING IN ADVANCE.

We have come to the resolution to take no new subscribers without pay in advance, because we believe it to be for the mutual benefit of both them and us. The Farmer is now so well established, that nobody is afraid of losing his money, if he pays in advance, a reason which he might fairly enough have urged in the first stages of its existence. And then, our farmers are getting into circumstances to justify us in expecting advance pay.

We know not why any one should be annoyed by the kind expressions of regard with which we are greeted by our subscribers on our return, and it is certainly very cordial to us, after the long and weary days of our absence; it is moreover an encouragement to future effort, to be thus welcomed back to the field of our labors, and to feel that our efforts and sacrifices have been appreciated. It makes us feel strong, to see, not only our old friends standing firm, but multitudes of new ones rising up in every direction, and offering us their active co-operation.

It is a matter of some delicacy to speak of, but we feel bound to say, that some publications were recommended in the Farmer in our absence, which we should be sorry to be instrumental in putting into the hands of the people of Michigan, as, in so doing, we should conceive, that they would not only be robbed of their money, but would have introduced into their families influences of evil tendency.

But all do not think alike, and the works in question, were doubtless recommended from the best of motives.

*A Word to Correspondents.*—To insure an insertion in the next following number of the Farmer, communications should come in the first half of the month, and if possible, we would like to have them quite the first of the month.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
**WHAT ONE MAN AND A FEW SHEEP CAN DO**

**SHEEP GRUBBING.**

**FRIEND ISHAM:**

I have delayed this communication, until the result of my experiments must satisfy every reasoning mind, on a long disputed point, intimately involving the interests of the farming community.

It sat myself down with my little family upon the place I now own, on the 17th of March '51, and forthwith attacked 20 acres of Oak bushes, which I found enclosed with good stake and ridered fence. They were from six to ten years growth, from ten to twenty feet high, as thick as cou'd be sustained on a strong soil, an admixture of all the different primaries found in our State. It was worth about fifty dollars to cut and burn them. As the young sprouts began to appear. I would go out on a dewy morning, and sprinkle a very little salt, as one would season lettuce, or any other vegetables for table use, circling here and there for the space of half an hour, followed by 140 sheep, and thus I continued through the season, changing them to other pastures, as necessity required. The grubs were defoliated, and I scattered, during the summer, whatever grass seed I could pick up about the barn, as evenly as might be, over the field.

Grubs, grass, and everything, except thistles and mullen, have been suffered to grow unmolested the past season, and I have now fifty dollars worth of winter pasture for sheep on the ground where the former occupant frequently hunted two hours to find his oxen. The grass is well set, and there may be a stunted sprout to a square rod, but not more than will be required for the health of cattle another season. I scattered about a peck of plaster across the field, and every cast may be traced by the growth of the clover in my oath.

And now for a spice of the philosophy with which you delight to decorate the pages of the Farmer. Those roots, instead of passing off in smoke, will remain as manure, and as they decay, will leave the soil porous, like honey-comb, and the year's roots will find their way to the sub-soil. I expect grass, year after year, so long as I pasture it, or feed the hay I cut, upon the land.—The field once plowed a few years, would pack down and require plowing again. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Last winter I attacked forty acres, those cruel snow storms were no hindrance to me, though I am 52 years old. The Grubs were many, but the trees few and far between. The oaks, though large and stately, were fast decaying at the tops, and many were dead and dying; their children beneath were robbing them of their heart's blood.

I pursued the same course of salting and seeding as before, with 140 sheep, and the grubs are dead, dead, dead, the grass is springing up green and gay, the old trees assumed a more abundant and richer coat of foliage than those adjoining, and bore many acorns. The leaves falling upon the grass, will preserve it for winter pasture, after affording a shade during the heat of summer. The sheep, the past season, had a range of

some five hundred acres: the cattle in the same neighborhood enclosure were fat.

Thus you see a lone hand has redeemed sixty acres of land from a useless growth of underbrush, and converted it into a luxurious pasture, with the aid of a few sheep, in a year and a half, besides the farming of a hundred acres of improved land. But my hand writing tells the story, my fingers are stiffened with the labor. Should any doubt those statements they may see for themselves by calling at the premises, one mile north of the village of Whitelake, Oakland County, Michigan.

THOMAS LAPHAM.

Write again and again, etc.—EDITOR.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
**VARIOUS IMPORTANT MATTERS.**

OAKLAND, Nov. 15, 1852.

MR. ISHAM—Dear Sir :

I give me pleasure to give my testimony in support of the Michigan Farmer. I have received it since its first publication, and consider it one of the best agricultural papers in our country.

It is not filled with dry abstract theory, but the practical improvements in agriculture, sent forth in its pages, have much benefited the country. It is only within a few years that the country and government have been waked up on the subject of agriculture, and this subject, so valuable to all classes, is now receiving much attention.

The practice of soliciting aid from practical farmers (as constant correspondents for agricultural papers) is very beneficial. The combined experience of many farmers published to the world, is certainly a great advantage.

I dislike to see or hear a bigoted, opinionated, and self-sufficient man, talk or write about farming, and pretend that he only knows this or that, and any one who believes different, is a fool, or blockhead, but when I read a pointed and sensible article, giving the experience of a good farmer, I am entertained and benefited.

*Labor-saving Machines.*—Agriculture, more than any other business, is benefited by labor-saving machines; the simple revolving horse rake, is of incalculable benefit, and every year saves thousands of dollars in labor.

When in New York this fall, I witnessed a machine for making barrels, which bids fair to put an end to coopering.

This new machine was invented by Mr. Trapp, who now resides in Elmira, N. Y. Mr. T. informed me that three hands could put up one hundred flour barrels in a day. The whole thing of riving, jointing, chipping, crossing and heading, was done by machinery. The expedition and perfect correctness of every part was truly wonderful. One of the great benefits is the great saving of so much manual labor in manufacturing of barrels. This whole business was carried on by one small engine.

Mr. T. has sold the right for Michigan, to a gentleman who is coming to Detroit to commence business.

*Manure, Clovering.*—It would be of great importance if chemistry could make known the proper manure for the different grains.

I am quite convinced that barn yard manure will greatly increase the straw of wheat, when but little is added

to the berry. I have repeatedly tried the experiment, & believe a good clover sod will produce more wheat than any quantity of barn yard manure.

I am quite partial to clover sod for corn, and have had great corn from little labor, as weeds will not grow up in a subverted clover seed.

"Uncle Aaron's" Plow.—On the subject of plows, suppose Jethro Wood is the Fulton on plows, but I Aaron Smith, of Birmingham, has got up a plow which excels all; he calls it "The Jointer."

He has two plows upon one beam, the forward one about half the size of the rear one, and raised four or five inches. It is properly a subsoil plow, easily managed by three horses, or four oxen, and the most perfect thing to prepare ground for seed, as the bottom slice is raised, pulverized, and placed upon the surface, and looks like ground prepared for onions.

This plow has become popular in this county, and hardly a farmer is without one.

I suppose your interesting tour through Europe will enable you to give us more about the different methods of farming in different parts of the old world. I should like to travel through Belgium, that garden of the world. In our western wilds it is not difficult to succeed with a virgin soil, but where land has been ploughed for centuries, it is different.

I have been a pupil in farming for many years, and every year make some addition to my knowledge.

Wishing you much success with the Michigan Farmer. I am Your obed't serv't,

AGRICOLA.

\*Our remarks upon Mr. Smith's plow were written previously receiving the above testimonial, which we are most happy to be coming as it does, from the right source to stamp value upon it. We have placed "Agricola" upon the list of our permanent correspondents.—Ed.

†We shall. We have so many things to say, that we hardly know what to say first. Much of our agricultural matter from foreign countries, we shall interweave with our remarks, from time to time on occasion may require.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer

### POTATOE BLIGHT!—ANOTHER TESTIMONY

the Farmer with the above title, by E. M. Cole, it occurred to me that my experience might be of some benefit to your readers, and induce them to make the same trial. After preparing the land properly, I furrow three and a half feet apart, and in the furrow drop from two to three pieces of potatoe, with from one to two eyes each, in hills about twenty inches apart, then on each hill I put one dung fork full of good long manure covering a surface about ten inches in diameter, then cover the hill with earth about two inches. I harrow or plow between the rows four or five times, as may be convenient—the more the better. For four years, while all that I managed as above, I had no rotten potatoe, while in the same field of potatoes, planted in the usual way, without the manure, I have lost a large portion by the rot. I always cut my potatoes, and when can, I select such for planting as are of the size I wish them to be when grown. The best potatoe I raise, is the white pink eyed, for fall and winter use, and the merino for late spring and summer.

S. B. NOBLE.

Ann Arbor, Nov. 16, 1852.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### ROOT CULTURE.

MARSHALL, Nov. 13, 1852.

There is no branch of agriculture more neglected by the farmers of Michigan than this, and there is none more essential and profitable to every one who raises and keeps stock. Jesse Buel in the Cultivator was unceasing in his exertions to induce a more extensive cultivation of Turnips, and partially succeeded in his efforts. Those who followed his advice reaped their reward. The oak opening soil in this State, being for the most part a sandy loam, is well adapted to the culture of roots, and notwithstanding, Wheat and Indian corn will continue to be the principle crops, a small portion of the soil should be devoted to root culture. If the corn crop should fail, as it has partially this season, the deficiency in food for stock is more economical when supplied with roots than from any other source. Cattle, sheep and horses will thrive on them in a raw state. If fed to swine they should be cooked.

As most of the farmers of this State are constantly tilling to their improvements by breaking up a new piece of ground, they have a virgin soil, the best of all for turnips. Let every farmer after wheat harvest, which is generally finished by the 2d week of July, plow a portion of the stubble and sow it to flat, English turnips, one pound of seed will answer for two or three acres, as thin sowing produces the best crop. The seed may be steeped in brine and rolled in plaster.—The old rule as to the time of sowing is, the "25th of July, wet or dry." The seed should be bushed or rolled. The nutritive properties of this turnip are less than the Ruta Baga, but they are easily raised, will admit of later sowing, and are excellent for late fall and early winter food for cattle and sheep. They do not keep as long as the Gourd turnip and being less nutritious are not so desirable to raise. Ruta Baga should be sowed from the middle of June to the first of July either in drills or broadcast. They require hoeing and thinning out so that the roots may stand from 2 to 3 feet apart. Bone dust, plaster or ash, or all combined in a mixture, is a valuable top dressing for turnips.

The Sugar Beet is said to be more nutritive than the ruta baga. Beet seed requires to be sowed as early in the spring as the frost will permit generally by the 10th of May. All kinds of stock are equally as fond of beets as of turnips, and they have the advantage of their keeping properties. Aside from their value as food for stock, it is said a good article of vinegar can be made from their juice. One bushel of sugar beets, it is said, will make 5 gallons of vinegar. The beets are washed, grated and the juice is pressed out by the churn-press or in any other manner; the liquor is poured into a barrel and the bung hole covered with a gauge, placed in the sun for some 15 days, when it turns to vinegar.

Carrots as food for horses and milch cows are preferred to all other roots. They may be sowed in drills 2 inches apart, and 8 inches apart in the drills, at the rate of 3 or 4 lbs. to the acre.

Parsnips are cultivated in the same manner as ca-

rots, and may be left in the ground during the winter, and afford excellent food for swine in the spring.

In feeding roots to stock designed for fattening, as a general rule, those roots possessing the least nutritive properties should be first fed and followed by those in due order which excel in nutritive qualities. A change of roots in this manner, will enable stock to take on fat much faster than to feed exclusively with the same sort of roots. Stall-fed cattle will take on fat much faster, and relish their food much better if fed on Indian meal, to give them during the winter along with the meal a small quantity of potatoes or other roots. The roots seem to supply the place of cold water, and preserve stock in a healthy and thriving condition.

Your own observations, Mr. Editor, while in England, where turnips are extensively raised as food for stock, may enable you to add some valuable information on this subject—such information as will induce our farmers more extensively to engage in the culture of roots so essential in mixed husbandry, and this is the only kind of husbandry that is profitable to follow, for an exclusive tillage of the soil without keeping stock will soon exhaust it of its fertilizing properties. The soil, to produce well, requires enriching with the manure of stock.

A. PRESTON.

#### REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.

Right glad are we, that friend Preston has entered the list of our correspondents. With his experience, great good sense, and easy farmer-like way of saying things, he will be able to furnish a great many entertaining and instructive things.

In respect to the importance of root culture, we agree with him in full. It is one of the means by which British farming has been raised from a very low to its present state of advancement.

One reason of this is, that while the turnip draws largely upon the atmosphere through its leaves for its elements of nutrition, which are thus incorporated with the soil, its roots make but a light draft upon those elements in the soil, which enter most freely into the composition of our staple crops, as the wheat crop, and those of other small grains—so that by decomposition which is constantly going on, those elements are probably increased rather than diminished in the soil.

But another and very important way in which root culture has contributed to this result, is that it has enabled the British farmer to keep more stock, it having doubled his stock-feeding abilities. And whatever collateral helps the farmer may have in guano, bone dust, etc., etc., his great dependence, after all must be upon the barn-yard.

And there is no way in which stock can be kept cheaper, or in better condition than with roots and cut straw or hay.

For the purpose of mixing more thoroughly turnips and cut straw or hay, they have got up an implement in England for crushing as well as cutting the turnips.

We hope our friend Gen. Williams, will realize the hope he entertains of introducing the same system of stock feeding into this country as stated in our last.

There are many other things we should like to say, but cannot now.

For the Michigan Farmer.

#### WASHTENAW CO. FAIR.

Washtenaw County Fair held at Ypsilanti on the 6th and 7th of October, proved what we most desired, a grand display of pro ~~1~~ 1 sbandmen the industrious house wife, and the handi-works of our fair daughters in the useful and ornamental departments of industry.

The grounds selected for the show are well situated for any thing of this kind, being directly east of the Huron Mills on the flats.

The weather proved most favorable—sufficient rain had fallen the night previous to lay the dust. At 9 o'clock in the morning, the sun shone beautifully, all was animation. Each one had a separate duty to perform, and did it well. Then came the rush for membership, and single tickets.

The committee of arrangements composed of Messrs. Mark Norris, Horace Welch, and Grove Saunders, admirably succeeded in preparing to accommodate visitors and exhibitors. About fifteen acres were enclosed on two sides by suitable fence, the balance being protected by the Huron river—on the right, as you entered this enclosure, is situated the large barrel house of Messrs. N. Strong & Ross, the gentlemanly proprietors of the mill and ground, which afforded ample accommodations for exhibitors of field products, domestic manufactures, the orchard and the dairy. Each department showed thrift; the vegetables, in particular, attracted much attention, it proved most conclusively, that a protracted drought did not prevent their successful culture; skill accomplished its objects.

In fruit the display was good. The contestants for the premiums were many. Mr. Tucker, of Superior, and Lay, of Ypsilanti, exhibited the greatest number of samples. Many others presented good varieties, though of less number.

In domestic manufacture, there was a good exhibition. The dairy, herd, and honey was something inferior for old Washtenaw in point of number of entries.

Let us pass along.

A few rods east of the barrel house, in front of the gate, there is situated Floral Hall, beautifully and tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, the work of our fair ladies. It presented a scene of great attraction, and too much praise cannot be awarded them. There was to be seen the flowers, and all ornamental contributions, vying with the best needle, shell, wax, and moss work, painting, drawing, daguerreotype, and cut flowers, each well represented. The monochromatic drawings by Miss Norris, attracted much attention and connoisseurs pronounced them of unsurpassed excellence.

We will pass along to the left: here we find Brewer, a prince among good fellows, with his noble French merino sheep, and Gale no less renowned for good qualities with his premium buck and ewes, of the same breed. Then comes a host of others. Gillets, with their fine wooled saxonies, 50 in number, Compton, Welch, Woods, Starke-weather, Uhl, Wilson, and Hinckley, with their Spanish sheep, specimens of utility and improvement. In this department the display is said to have exceeded that of the State Fair. Aside from foreign sheep, it was certain-

ly highly creditable to the enterprise of our wool-growers.

Next we come to the hogs, which were full middling, and of greater number than is usually seen at a County Fair.

We will pass along from the left to the right hand side of the enclosure, and what is here presented? One continued line of cattle, something in the form of a crescent, to the distance of forty rods. The first were short horns: in this class D. Garmo, Uhl, Goodell, Palmer, Finley Starkweather and Wood exhibited stock of various kinds, and of medium quality.

Next came the Devons of which Childs, Ridmer, and Compton, were the only exhibitors. The two year old bull of J. W. Childs is a superior animal, and shows himself to be in good hands. Natives and grades were the most numerous, and many of them showed points of rare excellence, evidently the descendants from Messrs. Van Cleve's herd of short horns. In fact, there were but few premiums awarded, where a stain of this blood did not predominate.

Next came the working oxen and steers, full forty yoke in number. The first premium was awarded to Finley, of Ann Arbor; he also received the first premium for the five best yoke forming one team. Ypsilanti received the second premium by G. Spencer. The working oxen were of superior quality, so were the steers. One yoke of the four year old steers, and one yoke of the three year old steers, and one odd 3 year old, have since been sold to an eastern drover for two hundred and twenty-five dollars. This, you see, pays for raising cattle; providing, always, you raise the right kind. Now reverse the picture and the price for a corresponding number of ordinary, or average run of NATIVE cattle recently sold in this vicinity to be butchered here, not being suitable at any price for Eastern markets, is about ninety dollars, and in all probability the latter cost as much as the former to raise. Pardon this digression.

We will now take a view of the display of fine horses. In the centre of the ground, a space of twelve rods in diameter, protected by ropes with a stand erected for the judges, was set apart, and here the horses were exhibited, and only think of the pleasure of having a neat and smooth piece of ground, ye jockies, on which to show the mettle and action of your nags. We had it on this very spot, and a better display of the animal of all animals is rarely met with at a County fair. Speed and bottom, beauty and action, were in the ring. It was an exciting part of the fair.

Our poultry exhibition was good, all of the crack varieties were to be seen.

In Agricultural implements, we had a meagre show.—Why this was so, cannot be accounted for; one thing is certain, unless our manufacturers of such implements keep peace with the improvement around them, they must expect to lose their custom.

The address delivered by the Hon. James Kingsley, of Ann Arbor, was highly suited to the occasion. He dealt in facts and pointed out our onward progress in agriculture, and the mechanic arts, our natural resources, and our future greatness; indeed he made us Wolverines think ourselves a No. one, with old Washtenaw on the top of the heap.

It was estimated that 6,000 persons were in attendance, most of the second day.

Our premium list exceeds \$500 over receipts. The two days amounted to a trifle less than \$800. On the whole, it was a period of good will and common brotherhood.

The society under the management of that tall specimen of utility, our President, must continue to flourish HURON.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### PLOWS AND PLOWING.

MR. ISHAM—Dear Sir :

I am happy to find you at home again, and hope to see the Farmer soon. Meantime, I send you an article on ploughing. I was at the State Fair, and saw the ploughing, and heard many remarks on ploughs and ploughing, some contending for lap furrows, and some for flat furrows.

Now we think that rolling furrows are better than either, and this requires a concave mould board plow of moderate length, so that the furrow will be broken in its length, instead of its breadth, completely turning under everything, and so pulverizing the under soil, as to leave it perfectly mellow and friable. In the lap furrow system, some grass is left uncovered, which will grow, and there will be room for air under the furrow, which will help to keep the sod alive, though some advocate the contrary.

To settle this question, let the land which has been trodden down by the team, in turning, be examined, which will be found in all cases, to rot quickest, and be the most mellow. I find in the list of premiums on plows, the cast iron beam by Campbell & Co., Mt. Clemens, taking the first premium for fallows, or old land. Now, I saw no such land ploughed at the fair, but many whose opinions I heard, believe this to be the best plough for sod, (stiff or light,) as it leaves the work more like the double ploughs (which are so deservedly popular) than any other, and are light of draft.

Now to plough well, we want, 1st, a clear field, 2nd, a strong team, and 3rd, a good plough, and it must have size to plough deep. Put on a good coulter, and once ploughing, well done, and continued as a system will be found much better than the present system, of little ploughs, and single teams, and surface cut-and-cover ploughing, although done ever so often.

R. COBB.

P. S.—I have spelled ploughs old fashioned; you may print it plow if you please.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
FOR FARMER'S WIVES AND DAUGHTERS.

Better bread can be made by steaming than baking.—LAN.—Prepare as for baking; when light, put on board a steamer, not the Atlantic nor the Ocean, but the stove steamer, if you have one, if not, most ladies can rig a vessel, or substitute for a steamer, as a pot, or kettle, or even the boiler may be made available, with a little rigging, and the bread will be almost equal to the strawberry short cake we read about in the Farmer.

Yours, with respect,  
HADLEY, Oct. 29, 1852. RUSSELL COBB.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
TO BE THOUGHT OF.

I will now state what all know to be facts, yet few square their affairs to realize the benefit of. The dry lands of this Peninsula produce more and finer wool and mutton, than the lands east or south. We have streams that fail not; the river Huron that heads on my farm, frequently has more water at Milford, ten miles from me, than at its mouth, at Lake Erie. Michigan and Wisconsin will be to the west what New England is to the east, a wool growing and a cloth making district. Then why exhaust our soil and wear out our frames in the thankless business of raising wheat?—All this herculean labor for man and beast may be dispensed with in clearing our lands, and a surer and less fluctuating return may be secured. Let our capitalists invest in sheep, turn our profuse mills into factories, call the laborers from the eastern monopolies, provisions and firewood are much cheaper here. Those long headed speculators east will oppose us, they know our vantage ground but perseverance and energy will finally triumph.

Then our merchant may shake hands with the farmer, U. O. me nothing, neither do I O the New Yorker.

THOS. LAPHAM.

The above is a bold thought, and does credit to the mind that conceived it, but, in our humble opinion, wool-growing, cloth-making, and wheat-growing, should join hands, and go along cozily together.—ED.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
QUESTION ANSWERED.

MR. ISHAM:

Dear Sir—Your correspondent F. A. Bolles, in the last number of the Farmer, asks the question if deep plowing mows corn the second time of hoeing, when it cuts off the roots, is not injurious to the crops." I will give my experience on the subject. For several years past, I have been in the habit of plowing my corn after harvest, say about the first of August, with a common steel mould board two horse plow. I cut the furrow as deep as one strong horse can make it, when my corn was drilled in, and the rows wide apart, I have used two horses, but usually, the rows being about 4 feet, one horse is the most convenient, and two good furrows, nearly occupies the whole space. The furrow is thrown against the corn so as nearly to cover the brace roots, and all the small grass about the hills. During the present season the ground was so dry, that it fell from the roots, which were cut off, like ashes, and exposed them for several inches, and some of my neighbors predicted that I would ruin my crop, but on the contrary it did well, not wilting or rolling in the leaves, and the ears are much larger than is common for this season. I did not plant my corn till after the 20th May. I do not approve of planting early, for a large yield, not sooner than the 15th May.

Those who doubt the policy of plowing deep and cutting off the roots, after harvest, can easily try the experiment in a few rows, to begin with, and if their experience should be as mine has been, they will no,

afterwards neglect it. I consider it the most important dressing that my corn gets. I do not hoe corn at all but apply the labor by horse power.

A. Y. MOORE.

Schoolcraft, Nov. 15, 1852.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
CURING HAMS, BEEF AND VENISON.

A particular object in curing hams, should be, to have them sufficiently salt for the table, and not so salt as to need freshening. With a brine made according to the following recipe, I have cured tons of hams, and found it invariably safe. To every one 100 lbs of hams, take 8 oz. sal nitre, 2 qts. of molasses, and 2 qts of salt. Mix them with sufficient water to cover the hams when packed rather closely in a barrel. After the brine is made, let it stand and settle for two or three hours, turn off carefully, and throw away the sediment at the bottom of the brine. Cover the meat with the brine, and repack once a week, changing the position of the hams. In from four to six weeks the hams will be properly cured, and may be smoked at any time as may be most convenient, as the hams will keep any time in a cool cellar. After smoking, they may be replaced in the brine and kept through the summer, if desired, without increasing or diminishing their saltiness, and perfectly safe from flies. I have also kept hams very sweet, and good all summer in a stone smoke house, suspended about a foot below the roof. Beef, venison and mutton hams may be cured and kept precisely in the same way,

S. B. NOBLE.

Ann Arbor, Nov. 16, 1852.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
A WORD OF WELCOME AND EXHORTATION.

MR. ED. TOR—

Knowing that the *mite* is also received, I have been induced to send you a short communication. The most difficult part for a typist in writing is the selection of something to write about, but I need not hesitate any longer as all the *farmers* of Michigan wish to take you by the hand or tell you in some way how very welcome you are to our dear Michigan again—the farm of your labors. There is not one of us who does not feel "life anew," and renewed interest in "acting well our part" since you are in the *field* again! I have read with continued interest your letters while absent, and believe they will be of lasting benefit to the Farmers of Michigan as a beacon light pointing the end of *continued exertion*. I wish to ask the farmers of Michigan (myself included) do we duly appreciate the effort put forth by the Editor, in sustaining for our common interest a monthly of so high a standing as the Michigan Farmer. I am afraid we do not, let's "rally our forces"—show what can be done by us if money is needed we can raise it—only more *action*, more resolution, determination to accomplish an object, Mr. Isham will tell us, is what makes it easy to be done.

I am with respect yours,

SENIOR, Nov. 10, 1852.

J. G. T.

Please give us some morsels of your experience in rming.—ED.

We regret that the following communication on a matter of some importance, did not come into our hand in time to be published in its proper season.

#### SAVING SEED CORN.

MR. EDITOR, DEAR SIR:

I wish to give to the readers of the Farmer, my method of saving seed corn. When the corn is properly ripened, go through the field and select the earliest, largest and best ears, or such as your judgment would point out as the best; open the husk and strip down, leaving the ear exposed to the sun and air, the husk remaining on the stalk. At husking time you will find the ear thoroughly dried. Break it off, leaving on the husk, and throw it into the front part of the wagon: when you unload, pick out the seed corn, which you will know by the husk and stem being attached; put it in some dry place; not exposed to the rain or dump and you will have no further trouble, and the seed will be sure to vegetate and grow.

It is a matter of more importance to the corn crop, that the seed should be perfectly saved, than most farmers are aware of. Although corn sometimes will grow from impure seed, yet it will not yield a full crop. I have tested it.

A. Y. MOORE.

SCHOOLCRAFT, Sept. 14, 1852.

#### A VOICE FROM CRANBERRY MARSH.

For the Michigan Farmer

#### A PROBLEM.

MR. EDITOR:

I have been led to reflect on the opinion that 19-20th of the farming population entertain concerning the obstruction of watercourses by mill-dams, logs, stake-fences &c., and I regret, that among the contributors to agricultural periodicals, there is scarcely a word written on the subject. I will suppose a case—a farmer occupies a farm of level land having an outlet, or watercourse, through adjoining lands, with a descent of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch per rod for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. By throwing a cork, or other light substance, in said watercourse, he ascertains that the water runs at the rate of three miles an hour, and is two feet deep. Suppose an obstruction 28 inches high is placed midway of said outlet, does he receive or suffer damage by the obstruction? The popular answer is, "no," the 28 inches obstruction only backs the water 56 rods, and leaves farmer Levelland 24 rods at  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch descent per rod, equal to one foot fall; it can not damage him.

No, no! Levelland is dissatisfied; he finds that the water runs smooth and sluggish by means of the obstruction, and tries the cork on the 56 rod level, and ascertains that the water runs only at the rate of one and a half mile per hour.

Supposing the banks of said ditch to be perpendicular, (to save figuring) The water that ran two feet deep at 3 miles an hour must, by the old rule of three, measure four feet deep, running  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles an hour, or raising the water two feet above its former height on the 56 rod level. From the two feet rise deduct the one foot of descent in the ditch, i. will still raise the water one foot on Levelland's farm, if it were ten thousand acres in extent. I admit that when there is very little water running, the 2

inches obstruction would form a dam 56 rods up stream, and leave descent of one foot on the upper 24 rods. But it would act very different with a heavy run of water, when obstructions are most hurtful.

I wish some of the able contributors, to the Michigan Farmer, would give us a little touch on the laws of Hydrostatics, about the gravity and adhesiveness of water &c. We all know, or think we know that water will find its level, but it will take its own way and time; the more obstructions it meets, the less will be its force, and the slower its progress, *I guess*. Don't you, brother farmers, of the Peninsula State?

Your obedient servant,

JAMES DAWSON.

Cranberry Marsh, Nankin Wayne Co., 52.

#### PRESERVING SWEET POTATOES.

Having just finished bedding my sweet potato seed, I give you the result of an experiment in preserving them. It is the usual custom to allow the seed to remain a week or two to dry, or cure, as it is called, before kilning them. This is done by laying them on a bed of pine shatters about a foot deep, built up in a conical form, and cover one and a half or two feet deep with shatters, and a few inches with dirt. Thus put up they will generally keep until spring, perfectly sound. This winter, however, an unusually large number have been lost, owing to the unexpected severity of the weather.

Last fall I dug half of my patch about three weeks earlier than the other, and allowed the seed from the first digging to lie until the last digging. They were then put into separate kilns of thirty bushels each, one being thoroughly cured and the other green. They were put up in precisely the same manner as detailed above. On examining them this spring, I found the green ones much the soundest, but both were very much injured by the severe cold. From the green kiln, I got fourteen bushels which had fine eyes, and some sprouts on them, while from the cured kiln I got only three and a half bushels, with but few and poor eyes and sprouts on them.

This would seem to be in opposition to the general experience, though there is a difference of opinion on the subject. Being a novice, not only in potatoes, but in all departments of agriculture, I determined to take the *ipso dictu* of none, but to experiment for myself, and then I should know. I have lately seen an article on the Irish potato, recommending the storing with the moist dirt sticking to them, just as they are dug. This, I believe, is also in opposition to the general mode of storing them, it being customary, I think, to let them dry thoroughly before putting them up for the winter. But on this point, I am rather an inquirer than adviser.

WARREN ISHAM, Esq.—The editor of the Michigan Farmer, Warren Isham, Esq., who has been revelling for the past eighteen months in foreign clover, has recently returned to his post, and will doubtless meet a joyful welcome from his numerous readers. His letters are among the most interesting we have seen.—*Mich. Chris. Herald.*

## HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

## PICKINGS BY THE WAY—NO. 6.

BY THE EDITOR.

In our late tour, some horticultural facts came under our observation, which may be interesting to some of our readers.

*Wintering Dahlias.*—Jeremiah Brown, Esq., of Battle Creek, devotes a good deal of attention to Horticulture and Floriculture. He was just taking up his Dahlias when we were there. Previous to taking them up, he draws the earth over the tubers to such a depth as to secure them against the effect of frost till the seed is ripe. He then takes them up and lays the tubers upon the bottom of the cellar, overhauling them and cutting off the decayed parts two or three times in the course of the winter. Some preserve them in sand, but that he thought was unnecessary trouble.

*Planting in Autumn.*—Mr. B. has a fine bed of lettuce (water lettuce) just up. He said it would come forward a month earlier than lettuce sown in the spring.

He had also a bed of onions (top onions) planted out, which will also come forward much earlier than if planted in the spring. Doubtless many other vegetables, as suggested in an article we publish in another place might profitably be planted in the fall.

*Ornamental trees.*—He showed us a tamarack which exhibited quite a new edition of this swamp beauty. By shortening it in, he had thickened up the top wonderfully, and thus added greatly to its beauty, making it superior in attractions even to the larch as it luxuriates in its Highland home.

That crooked, ugly b-died thing, the Sumac, he has trained into a straight, thrifty and beautiful tree, and thus trained it is one of the comeliest trees of the forest.

Besides Dahlias, Mr. B. has many other choice varieties of flowers, as Verbenas, Petunias, Fuschias, &c. He contemplates starting a nursery, for which he seems to have quite a taste.

*The right soil for onions.*—In another place, we have given an instance of the successful cultivation of marsh land, by Mr. C. T. Tucker of Decatur. He not only raised luxuriant crops of corn and potatoes upon it, but of onions also, planting the seeds directly upon the inverted sod. To his surprise, he had onions thus planted, of monstrous size, many of them being as large as a tea saucer, while those on upland made as rich by manure as possible, were not half the size.

*Effect of seeding down orchards.*—Col. Maynard, of Marengo, showed us an apple orchard of his, all the trees of which were planted at the same time, nineteen years ago, and were of the same kind, and yet the rows on one part of it were large, fine, thrifty trees, while the rows on the other part of it were dwarfed and thrifless, and not more than one-third the size of the former. And what should make the difference, all being planted at the same time? Simply this, that after the first year, the portion on which stand the dwarfed trees was seeded, and lay in sward for three years, the other portion being tilled in the mean time. During the remaining 16 years out of the nineteen, the

two parts were treated exactly alike. He remarked that a single row on the larger portion had produced more fruit the present season than the whole of the dwarfed portion (several rows) had produced in the whole time.

*Disease of the cherry tree.*—Stopping at Ypsilanti a few hours, we rode out to the nursery of Mr. Lay, who is the oldest nurseryman in the State, and we believe he still keeps ahead of all others in the extent of his grounds. Noticing a cherry tree which had burst the bark, and was being despoiled of its vitality by the loss of its gum, we remarked to him, that Mr. Bort, a nurseryman of Niles, had become satisfied, from an experiment he had made, that the calamity was occasioned by the freezing of our hard winters. Mr. Lay replied, that he thought so too, and as an evidence of it, said that cherry trees standing in a clay soil, were not liable to it, and the reason seemed to be, that they become mature and solidified early, while those in sandy, quick land kept growing till late in the fall, and they were very subject to be thus effected.

*Remedy for the Curculio.*—Mr. Lay said that several individuals had succeeded the past season in destroying the Curculio and saving their plums, by fumigating the trees with sulphur just as the blossom was leaving the fruit, which is the time it is stung. A pan filled with chips, &c. with sulphur intermixed, is placed under the tree, to remain three or four days. He expressed a good deal of confidence in its efficacy as a remedy.

We are glad to see this veteran pioneer nurseryman of our State prospering. His grounds are now adorned with a fine house, and we are told that he shows other unequivocal signs of having reaped the reward of his toil.

He now enjoys the advantage of having tested all his varieties of the different fruits and having the confidence of the community, all his recommendations may be implicitly relied on.

*Exportation of fruit.*—Mark Norris, Esq. of Ypsilanti, remarked to us that there had been from eight to ten thousand dollars worth of apples exported from the township of Ypsilanti to Wisconsin the present season, winter apples of course, three shillings per bushel having been paid for them at Ypsilanti.

From Jeremiah Brown, Esq. of Battle Creek, we learned that peaches had been sent from that township to Chicago, Cincinnati and other distant places. He said they had the large yellow peach there in great abundance, and that it attained extraordinary size. It is one of the most delicious of all our varieties.

*What degree of cold will the peach endure?*—It has been said that the sinking of the temperature below 114 degrees Fahrenheit would infallibly destroy them, but Mr. Brown informed us that the Thermometer last winter was 20 degrees below zero at Battle Creek, and at his place a mile and a half distant, about 18 degrees below, and yet he had a full half crop of peaches.

*Apples for stock.*—Few have finer fruit yards than the Rev. L. W. Ruggles of Pontiac. He has nearly all the choice varieties of apples, (as well as of other fruits) and a considerable proportion of them are sweets, such as Tolman sweeting, &c. He feeds them, both sweet and sour to his stock, and he says his pigs thrive

very fast upon them, and that his neat stock also do well upon them. He remarked that Dea. L. Bronson of that neighborhood considerd them nearly as good for horses as oats.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### THE QUINCE BLIGHT AND THE BORER.

DETROIT, Nov. 1, 1852.

MR. ISHAM—Dear Sir:

Mr. Noble of Ann Arbor, complains that he and others in that vicinity are like to lose their Quince Bushes by the borer, and says the insect enters at the point where the new year's growth commences, and works its way to the centre, and thence by the pith upwards, killing the branches, &c. I have never observed this to be the case with the Quince, but do not say it is not so. I have always attributed the withering of the branches of the Quince, which I have frequently observed, to the blight, and the remedy to remove and burn them. I consider it the same disease that attacks the pear tree, and which is generally termed fire blight. All speculations with regard to its cause, are quite unsatisfactory, but it seems quite probable it may be the influence of the atmosphere.—The Quince, however, as well as the Apple, is attacked by the borer, which eats out the liber of the bark, leaving the outer bark or epidermis as a covering. It commences its ravages upon the body of the tree, and extends often into the large limbs: the growth of that part of the body of the tree or limb is stopped, and is easily discovered by the shrinking of the bark, or apparent falling in of that portion of the tree. It is seldom the borer works entirely around the tree, but often one-half or two-thirds around, the tree in the meantime growing more rapidly in that portion left, and raising a sort of barrier against the worm, forcing him to ascend when the liber of the bark has been eaten out.

I have known the worm to penetrate the hard wood, but very rarely. The worm can easily be destroyed by cutting away the epidermis with the knife, thus exposing him. The borer often destroys currant bushes, by cutting the pith where cuttings had been taken off, and eating it out. To remedy this, I would recommend a covering of grafting wax over the wound, occasioned by the cutting out of limbs or cuttings of any tree that contains a pith.

It is often said "a preventive is better than a cure," therefore I would recommend as a preventive of the ravages of the borer, that trees be scraped every spring and fall, and all the rough bark, moss, &c. removed, and the body and large limbs of the tree washed with weak lye, or strong soap suds. This will be a benefit to the tree and prevent in a great measure the attacks of the borer.

Very respectfully yours,

A. C. H.

We hope A. C. H. as well as Mr. Noble, will often enrich our Horticultural department with their contributions.

Those of our friends who misunderstood our terms, in the October No. and procured clubs of five or ten at 75 cts. each, may send them along rather than have them dissolved. We supposed the matter would probably be understood.

year.

### THE VERBENA—ITS CULTURE.

BY AN ENGLISHMAN.

Thanks to our English friend for the following interesting chapter on the properties and culture of that beautiful flower, the Verbena. We trust this is but an earnest of what we are to expect from the same pen.

For the Michigan Farmer.

IN THE OPENINGS, Nov. 8, 1852.

EDITOR OF THE MICHIGAN FARMER—

As you have favored your readers with some particulars of the cultivation of the Hyacinth in the number for this month, I am about to follow suit, taking it for granted that you have no objection to another chapter on flowers. By the by, although the *scientific cultivation* of the hyacinth is confined to Holland, it is indigenous in the midland counties of England, if not to the whole Island; in my childhood, I have gathered bushels of them and it was not in Holland, but in England, that Milton appreciating their beauty supposes them to have flourished in Eden, and to have contributed to adorn the nuptial bed of our first parents,

"Flowers were the couch  
Pansies and Hyacinths and Asphodel,  
Earth's freshest, softest lap."

But it is not of the Hyacinth that I am about to write (it is too costly an article for most of our farmer's wives, requiring every few years to be renewed by the purchase of newly imported bulbs from Holland, at from \$1 to 2 or 3 dollars per dozen,\*) but of the *Verbena*, a plant very little known in the interior of Michigan, and which I think requires only to be better known, to be generally cultivated, for certainly there is no class of plants that will give as much satisfaction with so little cost and trouble. Not only do the Verbenas flourish in seasons of drouth, but they bloom perpetually, from early spring until the setting in of very hard frosts. There are among them every shade of color, from the richest scarlet to the purest white, and in addition to the beauty and profusion of the flowers, several of them are highly scented. The only obstacle to their becoming common in every garden, is the care requisite to keep them through, for although they will grow and bloom after being repeatedly frozen, they will not survive our hard winters in the open air, but the care requisite to preserve them, is so little, that I think no person who admires the beauties of nature, and has any taste for floriculture, will begrudge it. To such of your readers as may be anxious to increase the beauty of their gardens, I will give a narration of my experience and some instruction on their culture. Early in the last spring, I sent to an eastern nursery for a dozen varieties, one plant of each, which cost me one shilling each, several of them being in bloom when they arrived in April.—I immediately planted them in the garden, and a very severe frost we had in May, which killed a great deal of the fruit and cut down the corn, did not injure them in the least. In a short time the bed in which they were planted was covered with bloom, and although

\*Some of the choicest varieties sell at six shillings sterling per bulb in Harlem, the common varieties range at about the price named by our correspondent.—ED.

the season was so exceedingly dry that many of my flowers never bloomed at all, the Verbenas presented a mass of bloom through the entire season, and I could gather a very pretty nosegay of them *at this moment*.—After the plants had made considerable growth, I began to increase them by taking cuttings and planting them in a pot, setting them in a window fronting the north, and sprinkling them occasionally. They will do rather better covered with a tumbler, but I had no difficulty in making them take root without it. In about ten days they may be planted in the garden, and shaded for a few days, where they will soon bloom in this manner. I increased my stock, until in August, I had a whole bed of one variety, (striped Eclipse) on which I have frequently counted upwards of sixty flowers.

In order to keep up a continued bloom, it is necessary to pinch or cut off the seed pod as soon as the blossoms have fallen, for if they are left to ripen, the flowers will be less plentiful. The strength of the plant being expended on the perfecting of the seed, and as the seed is of no value seldom or never producing the same, there is no loss by its destruction.

To insure a stock for the next season, cuttings may be taken at any time during the summer, but July and August are the best months. These may be taken off 2 or 3 joints in length and planted in a pot, and the nearer the soil approaches to fine sand, the better.—Stick them in about an inch deep and as close together, pressing the earth as close as possible to the base of the cutting with the finger. Sprinkle them with water every evening, taking off the tumbler for an hour or two in the morning to give them fresh air.—They may be kept in the pot in a light cellar or any room where they will not be frozen through the winter, watering them occasionally, but not any oftener than to keep them from withering.

In this manner they will grow but little through the winter, and it is well to bear in mind, that the less they grow the better they will stand the frost. If there is any danger of frost reaching them, if watered plentifully so as to start their growth, they will not only be liable to be killed by cold, but also will be apt to rot, or *damp off* as the gardeners term it.

About the middle of April they may be planted in the garden, and if you wish to bring them into bloom early, and have pots or boxes, you may take them carefully out of the pots in which they were wintered, and put them into small pots singly in March, laying a piece of earthen over the hole in the bottom of the pot, keep them in a warm room until they begin to grow, when you may plant them in the garden.

In order to turn them out of the pots without disturbing the roots, let the pot be nearly or quite full of soil, place your left hand over the surface, opening the middle fingers sufficiently to let the stalk of the plant pass between them, then turn the pot bottom up, and if the hole is too small to admit your finger, take a piece of a stick and press on the earthen. In this manner the whole ball of earth will be preserved entire, and having made a hole to receive it, plant it carefully.

I ought to have said that the plant should be watered a few hours before it is turned out, as there is less

danger of breaking the ball of earth, if it is moderately wet than otherwise.

For the information of those who may wish to cultivate them, I may inform them that they may be had at almost any of the nurseries in the eastern part of the State, at from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per dozen, and that the following, if not the very best varieties, are certainly very fine, viz: Robinson's Defiance, (brilliant scarlet) Striped Eclipse (striped rose and white) La Gracias (clouded blue and lilac) Blue Bonnet, (blue) very fragrant, Queen of the Day, (rose dark eye) Wonderful (rose pink eye,) Sunset, (bright crimson,) Perfection (pure white,) Magnificent, (shaded pink.)

Your friend,

LARKSPUR.

For the Michigan Farmer.  
THE WAR COMMENCED.

MR. ISHAM.—I have read Mr. Noble's communications in the November Number of the Farmer, and, I am disposed to commence a war of extermination upon an enemy to apple trees and fruit. A small brown worm about half an inch long, with dark head has made sad havoc among my apples the last summer. I have often looked for them under the trees, on the surface of the ground, but have not been able to find any. I have also dug 12 inches deep about the trees, but have had no better success. What do you think of giving the ground a ploughing this fall, and thereby exposing them to the frosts of winter?\* I have not as yet, been able to discover any eggs upon the limbs of my trees, nor any indication for the deposit of a next year's crop. I am inclined to think, from having examined the fallen fruit, a few hours after it dropped, they leave it soon after reaching the ground. M. A. T.

\* Should like to see it tried.—ED.

IS OAT STRAW INJURIOUS TO MILCH COWS?—That oats straw is unsuitable food for milk cows, may be well known by many farmers and dairymen; but the probability that there are some unacquainted with the fact, induces me to write what I have observed in reference to it. At different times, our cows have failed in their milk, without any apparent cause; the cream after being churned a greater length of time than usual, was converted into butter of an inferior quality.—This has occasionally happened when the cows were nearly dry, and the defect was attributed to this cause. In the early part of the present season, having a large quantity of oat straw, it was liberally used for littering the stables and yard about the barn. The cows ate it in preference to other food and the result was similar to what has just been described. The cows in this instance, were all fresh. They were immediately placed where they could have no access to the oat straw, when they gradually returned to their former condition. If some of the numerous writers for the Journal will explain why oats straw produces this effect they will oblige, *Agricola*.—*Ex. paper*.

### THE WOOL TRADE OF ADRIAN AND LEEWEE COUNTY.

The Adrian Watchtower gives the following excellent account of the Wool trade at that place and of the increase in the value of the flocks of sheep in Lenawee county:

The amount of wool purchased at Adrian for exportation the present year is, 170,000 lbs, at an average price of thirty one and a half cents. The most of this changes hands before leaving town at still higher rates. About 100,000 lbs. more were purchased at the various other villages in the county. Some portions of this was of course from other counties, but we think at least an equal amount went from this county to other marts, so that the quantity purchased in the county, will probably represent very nearly the amount of its surplus for exportation.

The wool trade has sprung up within the last six or seven years, and it is only within the last four years that wool has become an item of much importance to the farmers of this county. Seven years ago, we scarcely saw a fleece in the streets, in the season of shearing, while now an amount already exceeding \$50,000, and increasing yearly, is paid for the clip at this place alone exclusive of the amount purchased for the two factories here, and the amount manufactured in families.

But the wool clip does not exhibit fully the wool trade of the place. Of the sheep slaughtered throughout the county for mutton, about two-thirds of the pelts find a market at this place. Large quantities of sheep are also slaughtered here annually for the pelts and tallow. We have taken some pains to ascertain the number of sheep purchased for that purpose the present year and we think it will not be less than ten thousand. These have been bought at an average price of between ten and eleven shillings, though the market price of good sheep at this time is much higher.

As yet the wool purchased here is mostly from grade sheep. There is, however, some Saxon and Merino blood in most of the flocks of the county, and there are a few fine flocks, of full blood, not only of the Saxon and Merino, but also of the Leicestershire. R. R. Beecher and Walter Wright of this place, have two of the finest Merino bucks—half French and half Spanish—to be seen in the whole country, and probably not excelled in the whole State. Mr. Beecher's is from the celebrated flock of John D. Patterson, of Westfield, N. Y., and is a lamb of Mr. Patterson's monstrous buck, that took the first premium at the N. Y. State Fair the present year, Russel Skeels, A. M. Wimble, Stephen Allen, Titus H. Treat, A. J. Hunter, William Palmer, John S. Clark and H. W. Fisk, in different parts of the county, have also some fine Merinos, and the flocks of the county are being gradually improved by a greater admixture of Merino blood. Dr. T. H. Bailey, N. S. Wheeler, and Walter Wimble are said to have some fine Saxon sheep and we presume there are many other good flocks that have not come to our knowledge. Gilbert Gage has for some time been celebrated for his noble Leicestershires. Noah N. Woodford has also a flock, and E. L. Selleck has a fine buck of this breed. These keep are held at high rates, and many of our farmers

ink them the most profitable breed when both wool and carcass are taken into the account.

J. D. Patterson has the present year brought a large number of Merino sheep into this part of the State, and sold them out at very high prices—in fact at extravagant prices—but we cannot regret it, as it shows the great interest our people feel in improving their breed of sheep. The most of the wool and pelts brought here, are purchased by our own citizens, who thus realize the profits, if any, upon them. They are mostly paid for in cash, even when bought by our merchants—farmers preferring generally to finger the money themselves, and pay cash for the goods they buy under a very general supposition that they can thus make better bargains.

This brief glance at the wool market of this place, will give us some idea of its importance; and its magnitude is almost a matter of surprise to us when we recollect within how short a time it has grown up and how rapidly it is still increasing. In 1840 the whole number of sheep in the county was 6,034—not over one half that will this year be slaughtered for mutton, or for their pelts and all.

### A NEW SEWING MACHINE.

The most extraordinary event of the Fair of the American Institute, now open at New York, and the one that has caused most sensation among the exhibitors, has been occasioned by the sudden advent of a new sewing machine.

A number of other machines of the same kind have been in constant operation in the garden since the opening of the Exhibition, and have been surrounded by curious crowds, astonished at their marvelous operation. They little supposed that a man down in Pennsylvania was engaged at that very moment in perfecting a machine which would entirely surpass these, and be sold at less than one quarter of the price.

But on Thursday the new machine made its appearance and was set to work by the inventor. An eager crowd shortly gathered around it. Members of the Institute, exhibitors and visitors, were alike struck with admiration at its simplicity of construction, the rapidity of its operation, and the neatness and excellence of the work it performed. The fame of the new machine rapidly spread through the city, and before night, tempting offers were made the inventor, by gentlemen from Wall Street, who wished to become purchasers. You may judge of the simplicity of its mechanism, from the fact that the machines will be sold for the low price of *twenty-five dollars each!* and any little girl can learn to operate with it in five minutes time. The machine makes a double stitch, each independent of the other, so that one-half the stitches may be cut or broken, and the work still remain firm. It works equally well on woollen, cotton or linen clothes.

The inventor is Dr. Otis Avery, of Homesdale, Pa., a gentleman of moderate circumstances, but whose invention promises to make his fortune. He has associated with him C. Nettleton, Esq., of 54 Wall Street, and the machines will be manufactured by them jointly.

We regard the advent of this new invention as one of the extraordinary events of the times, because the simplicity and cheapness of the machine brings it within the means of nearly every family—thus working an entire revolution in the present mode of sewing.—*N. E. Cultr.*

## MR. SCHUYLER'S ADDRESS.

The following extract from the address of W. R. Schuyler, Esq., before the Calhoun County Agricultural Society, commends itself to the good sense of our farmers.

One important fact having a direct bearing upon this subject should not be disregarded: that manures unless the necessary precautions are used, lose a large portion of their valuable properties in the gasses which escape by fermentation. Doubtless the same bulk of fermented manure will impart greater fertility than unfermented or coarse manure; but we should bear in mind that the original bulk and weight of the fermented mass has been reduced at least 2-3 by the decomposing process. Now, if all that is dissipated contained no valuable properties, the question as to their most economical, and profitable preparation and application, is at once determined. But it has been ascertained by well established chemical experiments that these manures lose their most valuable fertilizing properties in the gasses so often suffered to escape during fermentation, one of which is ammonia, a most important element of the grain crops.

Hence the importance of burying these manures in the earth in the first stages of fermentation, or else of fixing in the mass their volatile particles during the process of decomposition and decay. For stiff tenacious clay soils, these manures in their green or partially fermented state, are doubtless to be preferred. Too great compactness, a physical defect, is measurably remedied by their separating the soil during their gradual decomposition, while at the same time none of their valuable properties are lost.

There are other soils, as the light sandy loams comprising a portion of the soils of this Co., upon which their application would be decidedly hurtful. Want of tenacity, and of the power of absorption are physical defects in these soils upon which the most marked beneficial results have been produced by the application of well composted manures, in which, by the admixture of muck gypsum or lime all their gasses are retained during the process of decomposition and decay. Valuable as are the manures which the barn yard and stable afford we cannot depend upon them alone to keep up and restore fertility to our soils. Here we will perceive the necessity of a thorough knowledge of the constituents of our soils, in order to realize the most ample returns for the labor and expense involved in their cultivation. In order to obtain this knowledge, we must call in requisition the skill of the experienced, analytical chemist, who can furnish an accurate analysis of their organic and inorganic constituents, and the different proportions of each. With these important facts before us, we are prepared to act intelligently and understandingly in the management of our farms.—How often has the farmer, from want of this knowledge, been subjected to heavy expenditures of time and money without realising any corresponding beneficial results? An analysis recently obtained of a portion of the soil of my own farm will perhaps enable me to elucidate the subject now under consideration. The land from which this analysis was made, has the past season produced a crop of winter wheat yielding about 18 bushels per acre. As the ground appears to have been well tilled, this was probably the extent of its productive powers without the aid of manure. Now as this is far below the yield of a

heavy crop, it is highly essential that the farmer should be able to detect with unerring certainty the difficulty in order to apply the remedy. It is a fact perhaps familiar to all, that the crops we raise, are composed of certain organic and inorganic constituents existing in different proportions in different plants. That the inorganic part, or what remains after combustion, constitutes in different plants from 1 to 6 or 8 per cent of their whole weight.—Repeated analysis made of the ash of the grain of wheat composing about 1 per cent of its own weight, furnished in 100 parts, by weight from 45 to 50 per cent of phosphoric acid, about 30 per cent of potash, 3 per cent of lime, 15 to 16 per cent of magnesia, 1 per cent of sulphuric acid, 3, 8 per cent of soda, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent of silica; while the ash of the straw of wheat which includes about 6 per cent of its whole weight gives about 3 per cent of potash, 6 to 7 per cent of lime, 5 to 6 per cent of sulphuric acid, about 65 per cent of silica.

Now all of these elements, including a few others not enumerated, exist in different proportions in all the cereal crops, and most of them in varying proportions in other cultivated crops. Although the quantity of some of these ingredients appears to be small and of trifling importance, still a soil that does not contain an abundant supply of them all, is unfitted for the production of large and profitable crops.

One hundred parts by weight of the soil from which this analysis was made, furnished about 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent of soluble and undecayed vegetable matter; about 2 per cent of lime; 0.66 parts of magnesia; 0.18 of potash; 0.12 of soda; 0.10 of sulphuric acid; 0.02 of phosphoric acid; 82.58 of silica and 0.04 of chlorine.

By comparing this analysis with that of soils known to be fertile, without manure, which by the way are rarely to be found, we detect a deficiency of organic matter as well as of several inorganic elements, which must be added to it before its productive powers can be increased. Although lime is present in sufficient quantity to furnish specific food for a large number of crops, it is now well understood that by its mechanical as well as its chemical action it exerts an important influence upon vegetation, aside from merely acting as food for plants. For this reason soils containing from 2 to 3 per cent of lime have been greatly benefited by frequent and direct applications of moderate quantities of lime. The most important element of the ash of the grain of wheat, we observe, is phosphoric acid, amounting to about 50 per cent of its whole weight. There is of this element in the soil, we are now considering, a marked deficiency; only 0.02 of its entire weight. Now an acre of this soil, one foot in depth, allowing each cubic foot to weigh 50 lbs, contains 2,178,000 lbs, of which only 435 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs is phosphoric acid. Notwithstanding this comparative small quantity, there is a sufficient supply for 24 crops of wheat yielding 30 bushels per acre, could it be brought, as needed, in an available form, directly in contact with the roots of the growing crops. But we perceive that this cannot be, for the reason that this small quantity of matter is distributed through such an extent of soil, that it is impossible for the roots of any cultivated crop to come in contact with what is available. Hence it is, that soils fertile without manures, or those which require comparatively small and unfrequent additions of the various fertilizers, are

more rich in organic matter, and contain much larger proportions of the phosphates and several other important inorganic elements than that from which our analysis was made. An important fact derived from this analysis is this: that we must look to sources beyond our ordinary barn-yard manures for the requisite supplies of fertilizing matter for the soil. In connection with these manures, frequent applications, in moderate quantities of ashes, plaster, salt, lime, and especially bones or bone dust would prove highly valuable in increasing its fertility. We will suppose that 100 lbs of the ash of wheat contains 45 lbs of phosphoric acid; 100 lbs of wheat contains about 1 lb of ash; 10,000 lbs wheat contains about 100 lbs of ash; 10,000 lbs equals 167 bushels; suppose you raise 30 bushels per acre; it would require 5½ acres to produce 167 bushels. These 167 bushels take from the soil 45 lbs of phosphoric acid, which is equivalent to about 100 lbs of bone dust. We would remark, where bone mills or bone dust are not conveniently accessible, that perhaps the most economical method of preparing bones for use is to dissolve them in sulphuric acid, the cost of which, at the wholesale price, sufficient for 100 lbs, would be \$1.50.

This, at the same time, in connection with the bones, is a most valuable manure for our grain crops.

#### IMPROVEMENT OF OUR MARSHES.

We are glad to find some of our people alive to the importance of improving the marshes, which constitute so considerable a proportion of our Peninsula, and which instead of being, as now, foul blots upon its fair face, might readily be converted into the most fertile lands we have to show. We commend the suggestions of our correspondent to the attention of our legislators:

For the Michigan Farmer.

CRANBERRY MARSH, NANKIN, Wayne County, '52.

Mr. EDITOR:

"A free and candid expression of different views on important subjects connected with human progress, is the surest avenue to Truth."—*Mich. Farmer*, Vol. 8. page 235.

I called on a neighbor some time since, who was reading a newspaper (the Detroit Advertiser, I think) wherein it was stated that the U. S. government had granted to the State of Arkansas or any other State, all the marshy or swampy U. S. lands within the limits of said States, to be sold by the States, and the proceeds of sale applied to reclaim said swamps and marshes.

I consider it a wise, noble, and philanthropic act of the general government, and if the several States having such lands within their limits, will accept the boon, and faithfully, economically, and unreservedly apply the price to the purpose contemplated by the general Government, it will give a stimulus to improvements in agriculture, such as few have dreamed of, and more than I pretend to conceive.

But the author of said statement seemed to be too rigid a financier to suit my views. He hoped the State of Michigan would accept the offer, and after reclaiming said swamps and marshes, apply the balance of the purchase money to the liquidation of the State debt. Now

I will try to give my views of the subject. I have no statistics to guide me, but will suppose the aggregate value of wild land in Michigan to be \$2.50 per acre.

Individuals may have cultivated portions of marsh or swamp land, favorably situated, at as little expense, and probably have found it as profitable, or even more so than other lands. But if \$2.50 per acre will make all the marsh land in Michigan equal in value to dry adjoining wild lands, either timbered, openings, or prairie, the ditching must be done cheap. Now it may be thought that I have endeavored to intimidate persons from trying to reclaim such land. I intend no such thing, but as a great many swamps and marshes have a sluggish level outlet or watercourse, from one to four miles through lands already located, and as there is no law to compel the owners or occupants to open, clear out, and deepen said outlet, it must be done by the owners or occupants of the swamp or marsh, before they can do any ditching with effect.

Suppose a swamp or marsh to contain 640 acres, such a body of low moist land would require for an outlet a ditch 12 feet wide at the top, 8 at the bottom, and an average depth of 3½ feet at least, as it probably receives the surplus water of several thousand acres of upland. From a marsh of the above size, I have seen a ditch of those dimensions overflow, having a rapid current, and a descent of about 6 feet in ½ mile, an advantage that very few marshes have. Suppose a proper outlet could be formed by commencing 1½ miles below the marsh or swamp, and say 1½ through its centre, (marshes and swamps being generally oblong) making three miles of ditch,—each rod requiring 21 10-27 cubic yards of digging at 6c. per yard—about 1 28-100 dollars per rod, or \$1,268 80 for 3 miles—being two dollars per acre, and then there is not an acre of the swamp or marsh drained, but merely a good outlet opened to drain into. And the cleaning of said outlet below said swamp or marsh, would be a biennial, or triennial tax to swamp owners, or occupants, in all time coming, unless the powers that be see fit to enact, that each owner or occupant of land shall and must do his just and equal proportion according to the benefit that he shall receive by the opening and clearing, or keeping open and clear, all watercourses, whether natural or artificial!" Some swamps and marshes would require more and some might require less labor to form a good outlet, but I think the aggregate expense would amount to the above figures, which, with the expense of civil engineering, Land Office, Deeds, &c., would bring such lands high enough in price.

Your sincere friend,

JAMES DAWSON.

#### AGRICULTURAL INVENTION.

The Albany Argus says: "Yesterday we were shown the model of a new, and what purports to be a valuable improvement, in one of the laborious departments of the agriculturist, and for which the inventor procured a patent in April of the present year. It embodies in one implement, the capacity of ploughing with four ploughs, scattering the seed in the furrows, harrowing and rolling. The ploughs are arranged at suitable distances, in front of the cart, and the number can be diminished at pleasure."

## RAISING PIGS.

Raising pork, if made a prominent portion of a farmer's business, will bring in as much ready money, and produce as much net profit as any one branch of his business. Breeding pigs for market is profitable, and those of the most approved kinds will always meet with a ready sale at fair prices. It was formerly thought that there was some risk in attempting to raise pigs, for it was frequently the case that a portion of the litter would die when a few days old, and sometimes the sow would eat a portion of them as soon as they were born. But since "book farming" has become so common, remedies have been found for both those evils, and now there is no more risk in raising pigs than in raising calves. The pigs and sometimes the sow dies from over feeding, and by the use of improper feed after her accouchement. No milk or greasy slop should be given for three or four days. The best food is a thin gruel of scalded Indian meal dealt out in rather small quantities. When the pigs are a week old you may feed on whatever you wish to give them, and as abundantly as you please.

A hog requires both animal and vegetable food, and when her appetite is not gratified she will satiate it on her own offspring. A breeding sow should therefore be well supplied with meat or fish of some kind with her other food, especially for a week or two prior to the birth of the pigs. Regard these rules and all risk of losing young pigs vanishes.—N. E. Cultivator.

**RANCID BUTTER**—The Echo du Monde Savant says:— "A farmer in the vicinity of Brussels, having succeeded in removing the bad smell and taste of some butter by mixing it with chloride of lime, he was encouraged by this experiment, and he has restored to butter, the taste and odor of which were insupportable, all the sweetness of fresh butter. This operation is extremely simple, and practicable by all. It consists simply in working the butter in a sufficient quantity of water in which from 25 to 30 drops of chloride of lime have been added, to every two pounds of butter. After having mixed it till all its parts are in contact with the water, it may be left in it for an hour or two, afterwards withdrawn and worked again in clear water. The chloride of lime having nothing injurious in it, can with safety be augmented; but after having varied the experiment, it was found that from 25 to 30 drops to every two pounds of butter were sufficient."

Another method of restoring sweetness and flavor to rancid butter, said to be very effectual by those who have tried it, is to put it into a churn with new milk and work it till all the old salt and rancidity is removed, after which it is to be taken from the churn, worked and salted afresh.

**¶** We hear much inquiry for Kate Rockville, and several other of our Lady correspondents.

**¶** Coop up poultry to fatten, and they will do well up to twelve or fourteen days. Keep them in the coops beyond that time, and feed them as you like, they will grow leaner every day until they grow a skinful of bones and die.

## PREMIUMS.

Take notice, that for the largest list of subscribers for the next volume of the Michigan Farmer, at 75 cents each, we will give ten dollars in cash, the five last volumes of the same, half bound, and the Editor's Travels in the East, in two octavo volumes.

For the next largest number, at the same price, six dollars in cash, the five last volumes of the Farmer, and the two volumes of the Editor's Travels in the East.

For thirty names at seventy-five cents each, the five last volumes of the Farmer, and the two volumes of the Editor's Travels in the East.

For twenty names at the same price, two back volumes of the Farmer, and the two volumes of the Editor's Travels in the East.

For fifteen names at the same price, one back volume of the Farmer, and the two volumes of the Editor's Travels in the East.

For ten subscribers, at 80 cents each, we will give the two volumes, and for five, one volume of the Editor's Travels in the East, or of the Michigan Farmer.

The pay to be invariably in advance, except in cases where the agents become responsible for its forthcoming soon.

**¶** Those who are at a loss for some form for subscription paper to raise clubs upon, may copy the following:

## RECEIPTS FOR THE MICHIGAN FARMER,

FROM NOVEMBER 1ST, TO NOVEMBER 27TH.

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October 28th, 1852—3mo.\*

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THIS Periodical will be devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmer and Planter, the Stock Breeder, the Rural Architect, the Nurseryman, the Gardener, and the Florist.

Each number will be filled entirely with *permanently valuable* reading matter. No advertisements allowed in its columns; and not even the large headings, or terms and contents, usual on the first and last pages of similar journals, will be permitted. All such matter will invariably appear on the cover. Thus the numbers of the Farm and Garden, bound up at the end of the year, will have the same appearance as a book. This is a new feature in periodicals of this class, and should the more highly commend it to public favor. Published on the first of each month.

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The subscriber would again inform FARMERS, MILLERS, and all interested in this matter, that he still manufactures the above Mills, for reducing with great despatch ears of Corn into suitable meal, or provender for feeding Hogs, Sheep, Horses, and horned Cattle. The balance wheel constitutes a superior SHELLER. PRICE

\$80.00.

Also he manufactures to order, for Millers a BREAKER, to break with despatch, ears of Corn sufficiently fine to be received by a run of Millstones. PRICE \$35.00.

I invite the attention of Feeders and Millers to the above Mills; believing they will stand approved in EVERY RESPECT BY THE INSPECTOR.

J. L. WILLSON.

Wilson's Temperance House, JACKSON, MICH.

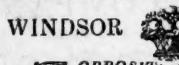
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Dwarf Pears, on true Anger Quince, of nearly every kind suitable for that kind of stock; very well grown.

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Almonds, Chestnuts, Walnuts and Filberts, comprising all the new fine French and English varieties.

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Orders can be left at the Nursery, or at J. & J. Dougall's New Store on their Old Stand, Windsor, where catalogues can be obtained. Intended purchasers are invited to call at the Nursery and inspect the stock.

JAMES DOUGALL,

Windsor, Oct. 11th, 1852.

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A good Farm situated in Troy, Oakland County, containing Two Hundred acres—140 of which is under a good state of cultivation, and well adapted for grazing. There is a good Frame House and Barn, also a large shed for cattle. The fences are in first rate order.

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